DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Snow business

Winter family favourite returning to the stage

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THEATRE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE

CAMPAIGNERS aiming to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition are determined to continue their fight despite the death of their leader.

Former Halesowen College lecturer Geoff Fitzpatrick was the driving force behind a campaign to save the landmark building when demolition plans were announced in 2011.

The 72-year-old died on Friday after a short illness, and members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group, which he founded, have praised his hard work and devotion to the theatre campaign.

Gordon Downing, 77, from Dibdale Road, Dudley, said: "We are very sad to lose him. He was a very quiet, personable man who got on with the job without making too much fuss about it, and he will be sorely missed by the group.

Vision

"We have lost our leader and he will be very hard to replace."

He added that the group would continue with the campaign to try to realise his vision of reopening the theatre to big shows once again.

"We don't see why the biggest town in England shouldn't have its own theatre," Mr Downing said.

Friend Paul Collins called Mr Fitzpatrick an 'utterly fearless' campaigner.

He said Mr Fitzpatrick's condition worsened after being admitted to hospital with a collapsed lung two months ago.

His condition meant he was unable to attend an assembly on the steps of the theatre last month to mark its 75th anniversary.

Historian Dr Collins added: "There still remains the possibility that we are going to get it saved and reopened. We are all incredibly sad that when this does happen he won't be there to see it."

Garry Sawers, aged 55, from Avon Close, Pensnett, said he had never even been to the Hippodrome until he met Mr Fitzpatrick, but is now a fully-fledged member of the campaign to save it.

Geoff Fitzpatrick – sad loss

He said: "He was a very nice man, genuine and inoffensive, very sweet.

"In all the time I knew him I never had anything from him other than 'there's no way they are going to knock that Hippodrome down'. He never gave up on it, he always believed 100 per cent that we would win eventually."

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor David Sparks, also paid tribute to Mr Fitzpatrick. He said: "It is a sad loss, I knew him as a local councillor when I represented Cradley. He was an honest campaigner."

Mr Fitzpatrick, of Halesowen, was instrumental in gathering a 35,000-signature petition that resulted in the theatre being given a stay of execution in July.

Call for First World War memorabilia

Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin, holding a photograph and a cavalry sabre, makes an appeal for First World War items

A MUSEUM has renewed its appeal for people to loan First World War artefacts as part of a four-year exhibition.

Offers to lend medals and uniforms to Dudley Museum have already been made and staff say they are grateful for the support.They are now looking for additional pieces, in particular items which reflect personal stories of those fighting, as well as those left at home during the period.

Memorabilia, including letters and postcards as well as rarer medals and uniforms, are being sought.

The museum wants to show the impact of the war on local communities, and is particularly interested in pictures, clothing, souvenirs and stories of people from the area who experienced the conflict.

Archive

The loaned items will go on show alongside interpretation panels and materials from the museum's own archive.

The exhibition will run from August 2014 until November 2018, echoing the timescale of the war.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said:"We've been really surprised with the response we've had so far, particularly in relation to the loan of medals and we're really grateful for such generosity. With the continued support of local people, sharing their stories and family histories, we hope to put on an exhibition at Dudley Museum which pays tribute to those people who fought in the war and lived through this important time on the world's stage."

For further information contact Adrian Durkin on 01384 815573.

Go-ahead given to a revamp at market

COUNCILLORS on Monday heralded a multi-million revamp of Dudley town centre as they approved the final part of a overhaul of the old market place at a planning meeting.

The agreed proposal will see a new-look market place with 74 stalls stretching along High Street from Stone Street to Castle Street. The market will feature a central aisle between two rows of stalls covered by a roof.

Either side of the revamped market place will be the town's High Street fountain, fully restored, and a relocated Duncan Edwards statue.

Approved

At the meeting of the development control committeet, councillors approved the redevelopment of the market and two stages of work behind it, which will now begin in the Spring.

The first phase will see 42 new market stalls set up, while 29 current ones would stay and 25 stalls would be temporarily sited on the other side of the fountain.

During stage two, work to replace the remaining 29 stalls would commence.

The market place will feature six walkways, a disabled toilet and refuse area.

The overall work will also see the demolition of the current toilet block but not before a temporary toilet has been installed.

The whole project, which will cost £6.7million, is expected to be completed by early 2015.

At the meeting Councillor Asif Ahmed said: "I welcome this – it is a small piece of a jigsaw which over the next coming years will come together and become a masterpiece."

Councillor Qadar Zada, who chaired the meeting, said: "It is exciting to see Dudley town coming to life. When you see these plans on the horizon I think it will be one town which will be the envy of others across the borough, and many other boroughs."

■ Archway – See Page 2

Residents have their say over the cuts

MORE than 1,800 residents have had their say on which services they want to save from multi-million pound cuts in Dudley.

Councillors are urging more people to get involved ahead of the deadline at the end of this month.

The Labour-controlled authority has already revealed it needs to make cuts totalling £25.8 million by 2016/17. But around a further £32m needs to be found over the same period after central Government funding was cut further.

Litter

Among the savings already identified are cuts to street cleaning, which will see residents encouraged to hold their own litter picks, and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000.

Dudley Performing Arts has suffered a cut to its funding and around £2.3 million will need to be saved from children's services.

The Big Question consultation is open until January 31 with councillors keen to establish which services residents value the most.

The council had proposed up to 334 job losses by 2017. But unions say they fear many more could be at risk.

Take part at www.dudley.gov.uk or pick up a form from Dudley Council Plus or local library.

Animals are led to safety

MORE than 70 animals had to be led to safety after high winds and heavy rain wreaked havoc on their sanctuary in Sedgley.

Seven cockatiels flew off and are feared dead after the wall of their aviary crashed down at Brockswood Animal Sanctuary in Catholic Lane, Sedgley. Meanwhile, 71 animals, including sheep, goats and ponies had to other fields because their paddocks were waterlogged as the relentless outbursts of rain.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Dudley who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319688
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01543 465305
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressanstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Archway feature at new-look market place

An artist's impression of the arch

AN ARTIST'S impression of a new feature archway which will be created as part of the £6.7m redevelopment of an historic market place has been unveiled.

Dudley Council, which will begin work on the revamp next month, has lodged plans for the artist-designed archway over the Green Man entry, off Castle Street.

The ornate archway will feature The Green Man mask and include the words 'Green Man Entry'.

The passageway, which dates back to medieval times, now links the town centre to Dudley College's Evolve campus. It is believed to have originally led to an ale house.

The scheme to revamp the market place, which was given the green light by councillors on Monday, also includes the relocation of the public toilets to allow the repositioning of the Duncan Edwards statue.

The historic fountain will also be fully restored and the Earl of Dudley statue will be reset within a raised lawn.

Demolished

New public toilets will be created in a shop unit in 256 Castle Street before the current public toilet block is demolished to open up the full view of the town's market place.

The area is set to play host to a total of 74 stalls.

Cabinet member for regeneration, Councillor Judy Foster said: "This is an exciting time for Dudley town centre and I'm delighted that the market place redevelopment is due to start in the new year."

The first work to be carried out will be in Castle Street which will be paved in the new stonework. That is due to later become incorporated in the marketplace later in the development.

Council bosses said the scheme will result in the feel of the marketplace area being extended through Castle Street down to Bottom Church and the Earl of Dudley statue.

Work in the marketplace area is then planned to start next spring with the whole project expected to be completed by early 2015.

The design of the marketplace stalls will also incorporate artwork and clocks. Detailed designs have been lodged.

Planning permission for parts of the scheme including the relocation of the Duncan Edwards statue and the demolition of the existing toilet block had already been approved.

Masterplan for £50m town centre revamp

A £50 MILLION masterplan to build restaurants, shops and houses alongside a new supermarket will be unveiled next week.

Developer Commercial Estates Group is working on proposals for the scheme in Dudley town centre.

by Heather Large

Bosses already have planning permission for the foodstore but have announced they are proposing to expand their development which has been earmarked for the site of Falcon House in the Minories.

Workshop

It would include designated areas for restaurants and cafes, business units and shops stretching between King Street and Flood Street and between Flood Street and Oakeywell Street.

A consultation workshop is taking place on Tuesday, January 14, to give people the chance to have their say on the designs.

The scheme would aim to improve the links between King Street and the rest of the town centre, such as the High Street and market place.

The supermarket would be the first phase of the scheme in 2015 and is expected to create up to 500 new jobs.

Project manager Richard Burke said: "Falcon House is a fantastic site, connected to the heart of the town centre. Whilst we already have consent for a supermarket which will reconnect King Street we believe that a redevelopment can bring much more to the town centre if it looks at a wider area.

"This can bring jobs, leisure facilities, homes, shops and improved public spaces which will significantly enhance the existing centre."

Another scheme would see boarded-up Cavendish House demolished to make way for a new store, creating 300 new jobs and 200 during construction.

It also aims to create an attractive route up to the High Street.

College restore landmark building

Dudley College executive director of estates Steve Johnson, at the restored Priory Villa

IT HAD been earmarked for demolition to make way for a college sixth form centre.

But after campaigners fought to save it from the bulldozer, it was granted Grade II listed building status forcing bosses to go back to the drawing board. Now, after more than £350,000 of investment, Priory Villa – previously known as Kudos House – has been restored back to its Victorian glory.

Dudley College had wanted to flatten the former surgery as part of its Dudley Sixth development on the corner of Ednam Road and Priory Road, fearing the cost of renovation work would be too great. But after being urged to re-consider, bosses pledged to restore the building so it could be used by students and staff. They decided to refurbish the building to its 1880s heyday.

With decades of decay and alterations covering original features, lots of research and expertise to uncover the true beauty of the house was required. It included restoration of the Minton tile floor in the entrance hall, which was painstakingly repaired and now adds to the grandeur of the main entrance, along with the sweeping staircase and refurbished glass dome in the ceiling.

Traditional wallpapers have been used throughout with many rooms displaying William Morris style designs.

Many of the rooms, which are being used by students and staff, have had the original fireplaces and timber floors restored or replaced with reclaimed materials.

A small extension has been added to the rear of the building using traditional stone materials.

Steve Johnson, executive director of estates at the college said: "We are all pleased to see it back to its former glory, proudly positioned amongst the modern, new buildings we have developed across the Learning Quarter."

Cigs taken in highway robbery

THIEVES pounced on a car containing thousands of pounds worth of cigarettes, forcing the driver out of the vehicle. Two men in a white van targeted a Nissan Pathfinder 4x4 on Dudley Southern Bypass, ordering the driver, who was returning from a cash and carry, to open the boot. They removed the cigarettes and made off towards Dudley. Police are appealing for witnesses to the theft, which took place between the Pegasus Island and Aldi Island at around 11.20am on December 29.

Father in robbery of driver is jailed

A FATHER-of-two who robbed a taxi driver of mobile phones and a sat nav, leaving him fearing for his life, has begun a three-year jail term.

Shane Hickinbottom had spent the night drinking with friends and taking cocaine before getting in a Hackney carriage, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Nicholas Cartwright, prosecuting, said the 28-year-old directed the taxi driver Manohar Lal from Jews Lane, in Lower Gornal to a block of flats in Tipton.

He said Hickinbottom had asked to use the driver's mobile phone but was refused. The court heard that Hickinbottom then became aggressive and ended up snatching the phone and demanding to go to another address.

Mr Cartwright said he refused to hand the phone back when asked and hurled racial abuse at the driver, who then drove to a car park in Wordsworth Close.

He told the court that Hickinbottom then spotted another mobile phone in the taxi and helped himself. Mr Cartwright said he had punched and kicked the victim to get his car keys and he snatched a sat nav.

He said: "The defendant said he had a gun and he would shoot. The defendant got out of the car telling the driver not to contact the police as he had a brother who also had a gun," Mr Cartwright added.

Hickinbottom then ran off with the stolen items but was later tracked down by police and arrested following the incident on June 11.

Pub scheme green light

A FORMER pub will be converted into a three-bed flat, after plans were given the go-ahead by council officers.

The scheme is for the Beech Tree pub on Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis.

Plans have been submitted by jab architectural design based in Sutton Coldfield.

The pub is on the junction with Halesowen Street, where the Sainsbury's supermarket is.

The scheme will include the partial demolition of the old women's toilets which are inside the venue.

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Hospital deny claims on restraining patients

A WHISTLEBLOWER has accused Dudley's hospital trust of restraining patients against their will. Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, 'emphatically refute' claims that patients had been unlawfully restrained.

The Care Quality Commission is looking into the allegations, following a request from the Department of Health.

Former head of security at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, John Marchant, has made the claims. He had the role for more than 10 years before being made redundant in December 2012.

Mr Marchant called in top barristers from London to give him advice on his concerns. Methods allegedly used ranged from telling someone to go back to their bed, to pushing a patient back into their room or holding the door closed so they could not leave, he said.

Elderly

Mr Marchant said: "In many cases we are talking about patients known as 'bed blockers', elderly people unable to return home or with no residential care unit to go to.

In these cases detention is being used simply because the patient becomes so frustrated at not even being able to go out for a walk in the hospital grounds because there are no staff to accompany them. Some would go back to their rooms if you asked them but others would have to be closed in and it would be very distressing for them," he claimed.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the trust, said: "We emphatically refute the suggestion that we have ever unlawfully restrained patients. The health and wellbeing of our patients is our absolute priority. It is our priority not to restrain patients.

"In the very small instances where this is necessary, it is to prevent harm to patients. We adopt a reasonable and proportionate approach that reflects our Restraint of Adult Patient Policy. Two years ago security staff expressed concern about being asked to restrain patients without a mental capacity assessment being carried out. We offered them our assurance that dynamic mental capacity assessments were always undertaken.

"We continue to improve our practice and training around caring for patients who lack capacity either temporarily or ongoing," added Ms Clark.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health said: "These are very serious allegations and we have passed this information to the Care Quality Commission for further investigation."

Corks pop to celebrate as vineyard is still growing

A VINEYARD is reaping the rewards of the 2013 harvest with the expansion of its Halfpenny Green premises – despite a disappointing season for vineyards across the country just two years ago.

Bosses at Halfpenny Green Vineyards, near Bobbington, are expanding both the winery, where they will be offering guided tours and a private dining facility, as well as doubling the size of the farm shop.

The vineyard enjoyed a bumper crop in 2013 which has seen it produce 80,000 bottles of its own wine and 120,000 bottles for other growers.

Shop

The business was first established by Martin Vickers – an arable farmer who had the insight to plant half an acre of his land with vines. Today the third generation business is owned by son Clive Vickers and his wife Lisa.

The couple have continued to develop the business which as well as the vineyard, including wine tasting, a tea room and restaurant, large retail farm shop, a selection of arts and crafts outlets and three fishing lakes.The business now employs 45 staff.

Clive Vickers said: "I'm proud that as a boutique vineyard, our grapes are processed and bottled within fifty yards of where they are picked. This continues to ensure we provide a quality wine. Perceptions of English wine have changed over the years with more and more people purchasing it."

Finance for the expansion including the purchase of a new press and wine tanks has been provided by Barclays.

Library loan e-books too

MORE than 2,000 e-books are available for loan from a borough's libraries website as part a scheme to get people reading.

People registered with Dudley's libraries service can now browse the e-books site. They can also preview some of the books online and add books to a newly created wish list, before logging in.

Books can be downloaded to e-readers, computers or other suitable devices connected to the internet.

For more details on the free e-book service, go to www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries

Father in 102mph chase with children in the car

A FATHER led police on a 102mph chase with his three children strapped in the back seat, before hitting another car.

Jason Thomas raced through roads at deadly speeds. He weaved in and out of traffic and travelled along the hard shoulder hurtling through a red light before smashing into another car.

Video taken from the police car chasing him, shows him making a half-hearted attempt to run off, leaving his three children. His partner was also in the car at the time.

Risk

Police said that 33-year-old Thomas, of Dudley, had put hundreds of lives at risk with his shocking driving.

He had picked his children up from school at 3.30pm on September 30 in his silver Vauxhall Vectra when he was pursued by officers who suspected him of carrying drugs.

After the chase – which lasted up to 10 minutes – Thomas, of Blowers Green Road, was arrested when officers wrestled him to the ground as he made an attempt to run off across a dual carriageway.

He was jailed for 22 months after admitting dangerous driving at Worcester Crown Court last week.

Sentencing him, Judge Michael Cullum said: "The high speed while undertaking on the hard shoulder is shocking. All the while, you were putting at risk of serious injury or worse, hundreds of people.

"In some ways, the most shocking thing about the whole episode was when, having crashed, the rear door of your vehicle opened and out stretched the arm of your young child. What sort of person drives like that with their own three children and their partner in that vehicle?"

"You didn't wait to see how the people in the other vehicle were. You even ran away from your own family."

Jailed – Jason Thomas

Police had flashed their lights at Thomas and indicated for him to stop. The two-minute recording shows the Vectra tearing up the M5 and even attempting to run the police car off the road.

Thomas is seen leaving the motorway then hurtling along country lanes near Hagley. Seconds later Thomas hit a Toyota, carrying a man and his 80-year-old mother, who was hurt in the crash.

The court heard it was Thomas's sixth conviction for dangerous driving and that he was already driving whilst disqualified and without insurance. He had 11 previous convictions for driving while disqualified. Thomas was jailed for 18 months for dangerous driving and four months consecutively for driving while disqualified. He was also disqualified from driving for 10 years.

PTA is back at school

A PRIMARY school in Dudley has relaunched its Parent Teacher Association after a decade.

Dudley Wood Primary, in Dudley Wood Road, Netherton, has recruited around 14 parents and grandparents, as well as staff, to get the organisation off the ground again.

Funds

PTA spokesman Lisa Marsh said: "I don't really know why the PTA closed before – possibly because people were too busy to get involved.

"But some of the teachers mentioned they were trying to get it reformed, after 10 years without it, to raise funds for the school and get more parents involved."

So far the school has held a disco and it also staged a Christmas fair last month.

The PTA hopes the fair will be the first of many such fundraising events at the school.

Around 14 parents and grandparents and some of the teachers, as well as the school secretary, were involved in the event in a bid to try to raise as much money as possible for the school.

Pupils Kyle Fleet and Tanya Malpass, both aged 10, look forward to a new school PTA with teacher Kim Maskery with parents teachers and pupils behind the association

NEWS in brief

Objections to new crossing at college

A PROPOSAL for a pedestrian crossing for students at a newly-built college campus has been met with opposition from nearby residents.

Dudley College want to introduce the traffic-light controlled crossing in The Broadway in Dudley, opposite the Evolve campus. But the crossing will create noise disturbance and traffic queues, according to residents who have written to Dudley Council to object.

The council is expected to make a decision in the coming weeks.

Knife threat by a phone robber

A MAN terrorised two teenage brothers, telling them he was armed with a knife before stealing their mobile phones.

The brothers, aged 15 and 17, were walking along Mill Street, Brierley Hill, when they were approached by the man.

Detective Constable Nick Slym said: "Although neither of the brothers were hurt, this was a frightening robber."

The robber was aged between 20 and 25, had a pockmarked face and a thin moustache.

Sharp intake of breath for ladies

MEMBERS of a village women's group may make a sudden intake of breath as they hear a talk about corsets.

Corsetry will be the subject of the first meeting of the year for Hagley Afternoon Women's Institute on Monday, January 13.

Members will also be encouraged to enter a limerick competition about underwear with the first line starting 'A pretty young lady from...'

Blackbirds are on WI's agenda

BLACKBIRDS will be the subject for Clent Women's Institute's first meeting of the year.

Robert Barber will talk about 'A Blackbird's Tale' at the event, at the Parish Hall in Clent, near Stourbridge, tonight, Thursday, at 7.30pm.

Members will also be able to enter photographs of birds for a competition.

Join pathfinders

A GUIDED walk through picturesque countryside will take place on January 16. People should meet at The Dog Inn, Dunley, near Stourport at 10.30am. It is organised by the Rock Pathfinders group.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

USEFUL statistics. During the whole of 2013 in a UK populated by 60 million people, only three people per day, on average, managed to lock themselves in lavatories. Curiously reassuring, isn't it?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

TIP for 2014. Don't get too excited over reports that Britain will have the biggest economy in Europe within 15 years, as some pundits are predicting. It is perfectly possible to live in a truly massive economy and still be very, very poor. Ask anyone in China.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THIS year marks the beginning of the commemoration of the First World War. Prepare for a creeping barrage of commemoration, comment and endless re-examination. But I guarantee nothing you see in 2014 will capture the black humour of the Tommies of 1914-18 better than John Jackson's tale of being buried alive by German shells. It's in his memoir, Private 12768, which was written in 1926 and published 80 years later. Jackson describes how the shells came ever closer until two dugouts full of British soldiers were obliterated by direct hits. Miraculously, all the Tommies survived and dug themselves out. As he puts it: "What lucky lads we were. Fourteen buried and all alive and kicking at the end of the funeral."

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JACKSON'S words reminded me of my grandfather's war diary for 1919. He was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and had been gassed a few months earlier. A sudden dose of pneumonia almost killed him. Or as he recorded dryly: "That was when I nearly became a German landowner."

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WHILE it's good to see First World War commemorative coins being produced by the Royal Mint, what on earth have they done to Lord Kitchener? The feature everyone noticed, apart from Kitchener's moustache, was his fierce squint. On the coin his eyes stare straight ahead, ocularly corrected for posterity. Kitchener without a squint is like Cromwell without the warts.

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AND a special New Year wassail to Ruth Goodman, presenter of Tudor Monastery Farm (BBC2) a series which recreates rural life as it was in the 1500s, warts, warlocks and all. One moment they're all merrily carolling and the next (I bet this scene brought complaints) they're carving and twisting the head off a slaughtered pig. This is history in the raw, so authentic you can almost smell it. Goodman must be the only female presenter on television to face the cameras without even a dash of make-up. What a pro.

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ONE New Year's resolution I shall try to follow: Think more positively about food banks. My initial reaction in 2013 was that there was a political agenda at work. How better to embarrass the Government than to set up hundreds of food banks and arrange photo-opportunities of hungry Brits queuing for their daily bread? It still strikes me as a rather American solution, designed to slap a sticking plaster over the problem than to tackle some of the social evils causing poverty – 24-hour boozing, online gambling and payday loans, for a start. But if kind people are prepared to donate food for the poor, and if charities are prepared to hand it out and if other people are willing to accept it, maybe we should applaud it, as we applaud other charities. Who knows, maybe this is David Cameron's "Big Society" in action.

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A FRIEND received a onesie for Christmas, followed by another onesie at the New Year. So does she have two onesies - or a twosie?

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"I BELIEVE we should move to ban it," declares the Children's Commissioner for England Maggie Atkinson who says children need legal protection against being slapped by their parents. Dr Atkinson has no children of her own. And until you have actually had to deal with your own toddler attacking other kids, or your over-excited preschooler dashing into the traffic, then you really are in no position to lecture the rest of us.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Off-duty fireman fought to save driver

OFF-DUTY firefighter Lee Evans has told how he battled in vain to save the life of a motorist whose car crashed into a garden wall.

Mr Evans, crew commander at Dudley fire station, gave mouth to mouth and heart massage to the 78-year-old man, who is thought to have fallen ill at the wheel of his vehicle.

The car crashed into a small garden wall in Glynne Avenue, Kingswinford, about 100 yards from Mr Evans's home.

Mr Evans, aged 50, a former soldier who has been a firefighter for 15 years, said: "I didn't see the crash but came across the car, which had knocked over a small wall, as I came back from the shop.

"Four or five people were gathered around and I went to see if I could help.

"The man who had been driving had stopped breathing – so I dragged him out of the car and carried out cardiopulmonary resuscitation while someone else called an ambulance. I carried on trying to resuscitate him for about 10 minutes. I'm sad to hear that he has died."

Father-of-three Mr Evans has been trained in first aid as part of his firefighting role. He said: "I've used CPR a couple of times before at road accidents, as well as at fires. But it's the first time I've used my first aid training while off duty."

The motorist was taken to Russells Hall Hospital but died. A female passenger was taken to the hospital as a precaution.

Lee Evans tried to save motorist

Action demanded over mountain of rubbish

RESIDENTS that a towering pile of waste overlooking homes in Brierley Hill will remain in place for months despite a court ruling sending the company's boss to jail.

The Environment Agency said there are no plans to use taxpayers' money to pay for the clean up at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd, in Brierley Hill.

by Andrew Turton

The agency's Midlands environment manager David Hudson believes the clean-up will cost between £500,000 and £750,000.

Residents are demanding a swift resolution to the situation which has blighted their homes for four years.

Contempt

Company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for six months when a suspended prison sentence order was activated by the High Court sitting in Birmingham on December 23.

He was found in contempt of court for failing to meet orders to clear the waste on the site, in Moor Street.

RDF Ltd, and Mr McNaughton as the firm's director, are still required to clear the site by February 17.

The Environment Agency has been given permission to pursue an order to seize McNaughton's assets in an attempt to fund the clean-up operation at the company site.But while the agency said they were having talks with the landowners to initiate the process, they admitted that clearing the site 'is going to take some time'.

In a statement, the Environment Agency, said: "We believe that those that are responsible for the site and the waste should pay for the clearance. Accordingly our intention is to press the landowners and Mr McNaughton to do that.

"Sequestration is part of our response as it may allow us to force Mr McNaughton to do the work.

"If the public purse were to be used to pay for clearance of waste we believe that this would encourage others to abandon waste sites in similar fashion."

Ward councillor Rachel Harris, who has helped led the campaign calling for the site to be cleared, said: "I'm calling on the Environment Agency to work with the landowners and the council and anyone who is left in RDF to finally move this forward and clear the site.

"Local people have waited and waited for this to happen, it has to happen now," she added.

Zoo sponsor footballers

YOUNG footballers have netted a brand new strip, thanks to sponsorship from a zoo. Broom, the white-ruffed lemur, was also keen to show off his fancy footwork as he joined in the presentation of the strip to players from the under-nine Phoenix football team at Dudley Zoo.

The zoo's distinctive tiger logo features boldly on the front of the red and yellow kit. Team manager Ian Stretton said: "We are absolutely delighted with the sponsorship, which has not only allowed us to buy a whole new strip for this season, but also new footballs to train with as well."

The team, which is part of the Stourbridge and District Youth Football League, trains weekly at Milking Bank, Dudley.

Money expert hospice donation

Anita Gatehouse donates the proceeds from her book to hospice chief executive Stevan Jackson, hospice shop volunteer Marlene Watson, social worker Margaret Thorogood, and fundraisers Vanessa Wale, Vicki Rowles and Charlotte Schofield

A FINANCIAL expert who wrote a guide to help widows organise their finances has donated all the profits from its first two months on sale to a hospice.

Anita Gatehouse, author of A Widow's Guide, called into Mary Stevens Hospice to hand over £1,218 which will help towards the running costs of the centre in Hagley Road, Stourbridge. Mrs Gatehouse, who runs Cre8 Financial & Business Planners in Kidderminster, launched the book in September.

She said she had advised many widows during her 25 years running the business, and they often found it hard to cut through the vast array of information available.

Onesies direction to help a charity

IT SEEMS volunteers at a charity which supports vulnerable people through criminal and court proceedings will go to any length to help others.

Twelve of those who work for the Victim Support Service in the Midlands donned different multi-coloured 'onesies' to trek six miles between Sandwell Magistrates and Dudley Magistrates Court in the cold weather.

Around 350 volunteers for the charity work in the Midlands, as one of the first points of contact for victims of crime, and to also aid witnesses in criminal court cases.

They receive specialist training which helps them to support victims, including those who have suffered domestic violence, all of which is paid for through donations.

Last month a group of volunteers from Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham crown and magistrates courts managed to raise a huge £1,700 for the cause.

Sarah Lang, senior service deliveries manager at the charity, said: "They got an amazing response on their walk, a lot of cars were beeping their horns."

Park and ride at tram stop

TRAM users will get a new park and ride service at a station to ease the car-clogged streets of an estate.

The move will see a parking area built close to Bradley Lane Metro Stop in Moxley. Now, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, Centro and Walsall Council are looking to carry out a feasibility study to prepare for the project on the track that runs between Wolverhampton and Birmingham Snow Hill.

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "The stop is very popular with passengers."

Pub to reopen

A CENTURY-OLD Stourbridge pub that has been closed for more than two years is to reopen at the beginning of February as a real ale venue.

The Seven Stars in Brook Road, Oldswinford, which is owned by Heineken, is being refurbished ready to return to business.

If you keep one New Year's resolution, make it this one.

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Save a life Give blood

More police in unit for protection of children

A POLICE unit dealing with sexual offences and child exploitation is to increase officers from 480 to 800 due to a rise in reported crimes.

The Public Protection Unit at West Midlands Police will undergo the changes from May, to finish by December. There will be a dedicated domestic abuse team based at each Local Policing Unit, as well extended child abuse teams.

Vulnerable

The force's vulnerable adults team will also be expanded and it will be strengthening its child exploitation teams, both force-wide and locally.

Chief Superintendent Simon Hyde, head of Public Protection at West Midlands Police, said the move is as a result of a hike in reports of serious abuse and exploitation.

"We have seen an increased number of reports of these issues over the last six months while running our anti-exploitation initiative Operation Sentinel," said Ch Supt Hyde. "As a result we are now looking to increase the size of our Public Protection Unit and strengthening the department."

Grants are helping the job hunters

MORE than £850,000 was spent kitting out job hunters with new clothes and paying for their travel to interviews, figures reveal.

People were handed money from Government to pay for equipment to start work – such as £300 grants to pay for suitable clothes – in the last financial year.

The clothing payments were among more than £540,000 spent on 'equipment to start work'. That could also include tools and a contribution to car tax, or an MOT certificate for someone who needs their own car to start their new job. Travel costs to make job interviews cost more than £157,000.

In total when other payments which made to help people prepare to go into work are taken into account, the bill for the Black Country, Staffordshire and Shropshire was £850,553.

It means more than £16,000 of public money is being spent in that area every week to help unemployed people find work.

It costs £428 per smoker to get them to quit

MORE than £6 million has been spent in one year helping thousands of smokers across the West Midlands to kick the habit.

Of those who turned to the NHS for advice on quitting between April 2012 and March 2013, a total 15,995 across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire successfully quit. Up to £428 was spent on each smoker during the period.

Stop smoking services offered included one-to-one support sessions, advice on nicotine replacement therapy such as gum and patches and a scheme for pregnant women and their families. Councils have now taken on responsibility for public health.

In Dudley, where there were 2,746 successful quitters, the total spent was £1,176,000. Dudley Council has pledged to work with local communities to reduce the number of people smoking. Council leader David Sparks said: "The effects of smoking in the borough are shocking.

"While local people continue to smoke we are losing lives, ruining children's health, losing money from the local economy and ruining the environment. We are taking firm action to stamp out the smoking habit."

Successfully

In Sandwell the bill was £1,077,000 and 2,536 people gave up while Walsall spent £1,130,000 and 2,686 residents successfully quit.

In Wolverhampton 1,392 people finished and the cost was £389,000. Figures show the bill for South Staffordshire was £1,225,000 for 4,149 quitters. Worcestershire PCT paid £606,000 as 2,486 gave up.

Amounts spent per quitter ranged from £244 in Worcestershire to £428 in Dudley. The average West Midlands cost per person was £348 and the total cost was £6,173,000.

During the financial year 2012/13 there were 724,247 people nationally who successfully gave up cigarettes.

Other services offers to help people give up the habit include encouraging smokers to have their lung age tested, their carbon monoxide levels monitored as well as offering free advice on how to plan ahead and quit smoking for good.

Figures show more than 23,000 smokers in the West Midlands have quit as part of the annual national Stoptober campaign. A total of 23,579 smokers joined a quarter of a million others across the country to kick the habit as part of the 28-day stop smoking challenge. It was the second highest participation rate in the country, second only to London. It runs throughout October and challenges people to quit for 28 days.

Folks had better watch out when unlucky Ian is about

WATCH out for Ian White. Because when he's around, bad things seem to happen.

During his 50th birthday year, he has come across a catalogue of calamities and even tragedies.

When an elderly British holidaymaker plunged 12ft from the quayside into the sea next to a cruise ship, Ian was there. As another tourist died after allegedly being hit over the head with a rock during a fight in a Lanzarote hotel, Ian, from Wordsley, was staying in an apartment block next to where the incident happened. And, when an elderly couple suffered injuries in an accident on an escalator in a Wolverhampton store, he was there too.

Ian White: 50th birthday

Serious

These are just three of a whole string of dramatic and distressing incidents that the local government electoral worker has stumbled across during his 50th birthday celebrations.

"I don't seem to be able to go anywhere without something pretty serious happening – I feel like I've been a bit of a Jonah this year," said Ian.

Ian as kept a diary of the traumatic toll of incidents he has witnessed – or come across – during the year.

January 24: Ian flew to Lanzarote to celebrate his 50th birthday, which was on February 2. The following night, in the apartment block next to where he was staying, a Scottish holidaymaker died from a heart attack after allegedly being attacked, leading to the arrest of a couple from Liverpool.

March 8: An elderly couple suffered leg injuries after falling down the escalator in Beatties in Wolverhampton. Ian saw the man and woman just after the incident.

March 26: He came across a medical emergency at a check-in desk at Birmingham Airport.

May 19: Ian was in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, when a young boy suffered injuries falling out of a tree.

July 22: Ian was about to board a cruise liner in Marmaris, Turkey, when an 83-year-old man fell from the quayside 12ft into the sea. Ian has described the sheer 'horror' of seeing the man floating in the sea before he was rescued.

September 28: Ian arrived on the scene where a carjacking had just taken place at the junction of Hungary Hill and Junction Road, Stourbridge.

November 7: He was driving past King Edward VI sixth form college in Stourbridge when he saw a car had overturned.

November 9: Someone was injured in a road accident outside a Liverpool hotel where he was staying.

"It's weird that I've personally come across so many bad things during this year, although I've still managed to enjoy my 50th," said Ian.

Hats off to life-saving staff

Staff, from left, Lynn Thompson, Elizabeth Gofford, Dr Berni Garrihy, Denise Walton, Steph Rogers and, middle, Dr Rajan Paw

THEY can be fluffy or come with bobbles or even ears. But whatever you wear on your head, nurses say a simple woolly hat can be a lifesaver.

Staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital have kickstarted their Keep Warm, Keep Well campaign by donning headgear of all shapes and sizes.

An appeal is under way for hats and scarves, and this year's push is inspired by an incident which proved the importance of staying warm.

A 99-year-old man arrived at the hospital with severe hypothermia but was nursed back to health with the help of a woolly hat. The man was 'freezing cold to touch' when he arrived at A&E after suffering a fall at home. A&E consultant Dr Joanne Taylor scoured the department in search of a woolly hat to warm him up.

"The woolly hat I found may not have solely saved his life but it certainly helped to reduce any further heat loss," she said. "He is now recovering well."

Dr Taylor and Matron Briony Howells are appealing for donations of hats and scarves to distribute to elderly and vulnerable patients.

People can drop off woolly hats and scarves at Russells Hall Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department.

Dr Raj Paw, A&E consultant and Head of Service, said, "Every winter we see a significant number of patients with injuries and illnesses caused by falling temperatures. Older people are especially vulnerable."

NEWS in brief

Housing planned at former pub site

A DISUSED pub will be turned into a home and its beer garden and car park will have houses built on it ss part of proposals approved by planners.

Developer Prestbury Limited, in Stourport, has received the go-ahead from Dudley Council for five homes at the former Albion Public House, in Albion Street, Wall Heath.

The council's development control committee approved its plan for four three-bedroom houses on the car park and beer garden.

The council also gave the green light to the firm's plan to turn the pub into a four-bedroom house.

Window smashed at library by a yob

A VANDAL was responsible for showering glass into the children's area of a library, putting part of the building out of action.

Staff at Wordsley Library discovered on December 30 that a small window had been broken. Shards of glass had fallen into some of the children's books and the area was cordoned off while cleaned up.

Dudley councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member responsible for libraries, said: "This is an appalling act of vandalism which has affected a small part of the library."

Dean sticks neck out with proposal

WHEN Dean Wood dreamt of his perfect proposal, he knew he would be sticking his neck out to ensure his childhood sweetheart said yes.

As his other half Katherine Spooner was mad on giraffes he decided to get down on one knee at Dudley Zoo.

And luckily she agreed to marry him.

Mr Wood, from Barns Lane, in Rushall, Walsall, spent weeks planning the proposal and struck upon the idea of taking his girlfriend on a day out on Saturday to the attraction to feed her favourite animals.

Auctioneer story is topic for a talk

A TALK on the life of an auctioneer will take place when Wordsley History Society holding an event tonight, Thursday, at 7.30pm.

It will be held at the community centre in Wordsley Green.

New members and visitors are welcome.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

HOT on the heels of shadow transport minister Mary Creagh's outburst at the apparent sexism of Thomas the Tank Engine, it now appears that another inhabitant of the Westminster bubble has been spending a little too much time in the children's library again.

This time it's independent consultant Caroline Shenton, who has been commissioned to come up with how to turn the Houses of Parliament into a 'visitor attraction'. Her proposal is for a Willy Wonka-style great glass elevator on the side of the Victoria Tower.

I know politicians love banging on about 'transparency', but this is ridiculous.

❒❒❒❒❒

WHEN they said we're all in this together, it never for one moment occurred to me that would extend to ladies and gentleman of the Bar.

No, not that kind of bar. A group of our learned friends were out on strike this week, manning the picket lines in their full clobber, gowns, winged-collars, and wigs, the whole shebang.

Cuts to the legal aid budget has apparently left some of them struggling to get by, says Mr Nigel Lithman QC, who appears to be a sort of shop steward for m'learned friends. He warns that unless barristers are paid more, many of us will soon find ourselves living next door to paedophiles and rapists because there will be nobody to prosecute them. Not that he would want to cause any undue alarm, you understand.

Needless to say, there have been bitter arguments about how much barristers actually earn. Justice Secretary Chris Grayling says they typically earn £84,000 a year. Mr Lithman - doesn't he sound like he should be a judge on X Factor? - says it is closer to £37,000.

I'm sure they would agree, though, that there's only one way to settle this. Full public inquiry, led by a top judge, senior silks on either side, and wigs all round.

What do we want? An independent inquiry. When do we want it? In the fullness of time.

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IT would take a heart of stone not to see the funny side of the ship full of global-warming fans who set sail to Antarctica to investigate the disappearing ice cap - and ended up getting stuck in it.

At the time of writing, their ship has been stuck in the 'vanishing' ice for 10 days, as is the Chinese ice-breaker ship sent out to rescue them. Eventually they were freed by a third ship, an Australian icebreaker.

Quite how many hydrocarbons have been emitted during this ill-fated school field trip, but I suspect it will take quite a few low-energy light bulbs and cycle trips by the time we're finished.

Setting standards – Brett with community champion Nick Sutcliffe at the bakery

Lorries at the Wednesbury bakery which produces two million loaves a week

Using their loaf to keep it in the family

IT IS ONE of the largest bakeries in the UK, employing 4,500 staff – including 430 from its base in Wednesbury

And no matter what type of bread you eat at home, you are bound to have heard of the Warburtons brand.

The family-run business is as synonymous with the shopping list as Cadbury chocolate and Tetley tea, and ever since its beginnings in 1876 it is still going strong.

Thomas Warburton and his wife Ellen first opened their grocery shop in 1870, and during a slump in the grocery market in 1876, Ellen started baking bread.

Her first batch of four loaves of bread and six cakes sold out in under an hour and within two weeks the tiny shop in Bolton was renamed 'Warburtons the Bakers' and continued to go from strength to strength.

More than 130 years later the company is still in the hands of the family, run by fifth generation family members Jonathan, Ross and Brett Warburton.

Integral

And family values very much remain an integral part of the business, Brett Warburton said during a visit to the Wednesbury bakery. "I'm fifth generation and it is still very much a family business. Not only in terms of its ownership, but also in terms of its ethos. We pride ourselves on being a family business. There are still three family members on the board – myself, Jonathan and Ross."

The Wednesbury base, in Moorcroft Drive, produces two million loaves a week and serves around 2,000 shops, 24 hours a day, 363 days a year.

It closes only for Christmas Day and Easter. Brett said the brand is often quoted as being one of the top three in the country behind Coca Cola and Walkers, and it aims to treat staff as part of one big family. As such, it runs a scheme called community giving, investing in schemes as well as donating products to the local community.

Brett Warburton proudly views the fruits of his company's labour as he visited the Wednesbury site, which employs 430

"We like to think we treat our people well and want our business to operate as a large family. We first set foot outside Lancashire in 1984 and we have grown that on quality of production and quality of service. We are very lucky to have a lot of people who have worked for the business for a very long time," Brett added.

Nick Sutcliffe is the community champion at Wednesbury and explained the company invests in a number of ways. Under financial giving, the company donates small amounts of money to purchase specific pieces of equipment.

Last year more than £20,000 was donated in the West Midlands supporting a range of activities, as well as hundreds of thousands of pounds more to the charitable sector. In addition, around £27,000 of products were given to one-off events such as church events, breakfast clubs, and Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham for families of patients in hospitals and hospices.

Meanwhile, the company also has an investment programme where it gets employees into the community. In one case it has teamed up with the RSA Academy in Tipton and has this year been working with business students on the international baccalaureate. Brett added: "Where we used to just give someone a cheque and move on we like to get involved with the people that we work with."

People can apply for support from the firm's financial giving scheme, which is aimed at supporting projects, activities and organisations that have charitable aims and will be of real direct benefit to local communities. Visit **www.warburtons.co.uk** to find out more.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A JOB centre was besieged by hundreds of people applying for work at the Austin Rover car plant in Longbridge. Job-hunters defied the snow and rain and started queuing outside the employment exchange in Northfield before it had opened. Around 600 people applied for fewer than 400 posts. But it was all in vain as the positions were already filled.

A POLICE sergeant was wounded by a Zulu spear when a man thrust it through a bedroom door during a house siege in Birmingham. A 34-year-old man, who was eventually persuaded to come out after seven hours, was detained under the Mental Health Act.

1993...

CORONATION Street actress Anne Kirkbride was set for a return to the cobbles after recovering from throat cancer. The actress, who played Deirdre Barlow had a lump removed from her neck.

EDUCATION Secretary John Patten revealed that he had been 'flogged' from time to time at his strict Jesuit school. But despite this experience, he said he regretted that the cane had been banned by European court rulings as he launched a new crackdown on bullying and racial harassment in schools.

THE world of cricket was mourning the death of commentator Brian 'Johnners' Johnston, at the age of 81. His double act with Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld on Test Match Special, which frequently made much use of schoolboy humour, would often leave listeners, not to mention himself, in fits of giggles.

2003...

SEVERAL shops were forced to close as Brierley Hill town centre was overcome with a swarm of rats. In scenes reminiscent of the Pied Piper, one woman walking along Pearson Street turned round to discover she was being followed by around half a dozen rodents.

BRITNEY Spears' whirlwind marriage was set to end as suddenly as it began, with reports that she was trying to get her vows annulled within hours of making them at Las Vegas' Little White Chapel. Sources said the 5.30am ceremony, where she was walked down the aisle by a barman, was a joke which had gone too far.

A MOTHER and son were rescued from a house in Wolverhampton after an electric blanket being used to heat home brew caught fire. Assistant divisional fire officer David Glenis warned that electric blankets should never be used in this way.

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LETTERS

Lack of hospital buses is proving a real sickener

MY husband and I have just returned from an appointment at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

We chose to use public transport as parking is usually quite difficult and the cost high. We were shocked to discover that even though this is a huge hospital split into several zones there are very few buses serving it.

To travel to and from Wolverhampton bus station there is just one bus every hour, or if you are prepared (or able) to walk quite some distance to the other side of the hospital there is one that comes every half an hour on the return journey. There appears to be no services on Sundays. We had to wait 45 minutes as the bus was late anyway.

There are a number of buses that pass the entrance but if you are incapacitated it is a long walk from there to your hospital department. It is now clear why parking is an issue as there seems to be no other way for some people to get there.

J JAMES, Wordsley

Bring Bratch to former glory

I WOULD like to draw your attention to the old Bratch Pumping Station in Bratch Lane, Wombourne. To me it seems such a crime to let the beautiful old steam engines be left to rust away, after the care and attention they had from Friends of the Bratch, which was disbanded after Severn Trent shut the station down.

J TURNER, Orton Lane, Wombourne

Message to woman who stole girl's scarf

I HOPE the middle-aged well-dressed woman, who claimed the Burberry scarf left in River Island at Merry Hill on Friday, December 27, at approx 5pm, was her scarf is enjoying the gift she stole.

She must have been watching as my grand-daughter misplaced the scarf whilst trying on a coat, saw us leave the store and saw the assistant take the scarf behind the counter.

Within ten minutes we returned to the store to be told the scarf has been claimed by this woman just five minutes earlier. How despicable. This was my 14-year-old daughter's Christmas present and she is devastated. I hope this woman can live with her conscience.

CCTV footage has been observed and the police informed. Hopefully what goes around comes around.

HALESOWEN READER, name and address supplied

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Car wash start-ups raise a few questions

REF a letter sent in by L Handley regarding car wash concerns, Halesowen Chronicle November 28. He has raised a very good point

Like him, I have noticed that so many of these are starting up, the people operating then are usually foreigners.

Everything I sell I have to issue a receipt, these people do not. So my point is, do these people adhere to health and safety requirements, as i have to, and is any check carried out to ensure that they do comply?

Also, are the chemicals used for washing the vehicles adhering to environmental guidelines?

As it is all cash, do they supply detailed accounts to the income tax and national insurance people, are they monitored?

Are they, or the people working for them, on benefits and do they declare all the income they are receiving for working at such places?

It will be interesting to see what response this brings.

COLIN GRIFFIN, Sealine Support Services Litd, sent via email

Total more than £25k is raised for appeal

ON BEHALf of Quarry Bank branch of the Royal British Legion, I would like to thank the people of Quarry Bank and Brierley Hill for their very generous donations for the 2013 Poppy appeal.

Thank you to Asda Brierley Hill, Sainsbury's Merry Hill and the Merry Hill Centre for their support, also all the schools, shops, pubs, clubs and factories for having collection boxes on their premises. A very big thank you to our volunteer collectors who have helped us collect the magnificent total of £25,548.89 for this year's Poppy Appeal.

The Royal British Legion are proud to be the number one charity providing welfare, comradeship and representation to the whole of the Armed Forces community. With your support we will continue to support those in needives.

E HOMER Branch Secretary, Halesowen

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CLUB NEWS

Cheque for £500 given out

MARY STEVENS HOSPICE LUNCHEON CLUB

THE Christmas lunch was held at The Granary Hotel and Restaurant, Shenstone in December.

Nearly 60 members enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal in a room appropriately decorated.

The speaker was Simon Ward, the food and beverages manager at the hotel. He has a passion for wine and has his own company "Glory of Wine Tastings" to promote knowledge and understanding of good wine.

He told the story of producing champagne and recommended suitable wines to accompany a Christmas meal. Members were invited to partake in the tasting of a port produced in the Douro Valley in Portugal.

The club meets four times a year at the Granary and Barbara Julian was able to present Geoff Wakeman, a member of the Hospice Board, with a cheque for £500, which brought the total donated by the luncheon club to £20,000 since the club was formed.

Geoff thanked the members for their generosity reminding them that the running costs of the hospice were more than £2m a year.

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 13 and anyone interested in joining can obtain more details from Barbara on 01384 295848.

Rise and decline of carpet industry

The Christmas party goes with a swing

HALESOWEN PENSIONERS (WMPC)

THE last meeting was the Christmas party. Nevertheless, speaker, Mr Brendan Clifford, assistant director of Dudley Social Services (Adult Services) gave a very informative and interesting talk on what mental strategies should be adopted to help maintain good mental, as well as physical health.

He also explained the history of provisions of care by local authorities since 1948, and gave a brief outline of the proposed legislation of the 2015 Care Bill. He explained how attitudes have changed both by the care providers and people receiving care and now emphasis is placed on providing care on an individual bases, giving more choice. As is usual, there were long discussions, which served to inform everyone about present problems and how best to resolve them.

The party afterwards went with a swing.

The next meeting will be on January 17 from 10.15am to 12.30pm at the Shenstone Theatre in Halesowen Library. Entrance is free, there will be tea and biscuits and plenty of chat.

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

ON December 12, chairman Sheila Evans welcomed all to the last meeting of the year, the grand Christmas party.

Also in attendance was the company secretary to the charity which supports the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, who had come to collect blankets knitted or crocheted by group members, Ladies of Saint Michael's Church, Himley, and the ladies of Kinver Church.

Following an update on progress made at the hospital, the ladies then enjoyed a sumptuous buffet prepared by the committee and to receive an extravagant raffle prize.

On November 7, Melvin Thompson, gave a detailed account on the rise and decline of the carpet industry in Kidderminster.

The next meeting will be at 7.45pm on February 6 at the Royal British Legion, Kingswinford.

Officers re-elected at AGM

KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT the AGM in December the following officers were re-elected: chairman – Brenda Arthur, membership secretary – Ena Jones, programme secretary – Betty Holding, treasurer – Ron Julian and committee member Joyce Burns.

The chairman appealed for additional committee members, failing which the future of the society would have to be considered. It was founded in 1991 and it was hoped that it would be able to continue.

The formal part of the evening was followed by a presentation by Bill Devitt on the 'Orient Express'.

The evening concluded with refreshments and wine to end the year's meetings.

The meeting on Monday February 3 sees a return of Dr Paul Collins presenting 'By Tram from Dudley'.

New members and visitors are welcome. Call Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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RYDALE 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Not strictly just ballroom at the college

DANCE sessions return to Dudley College this weekend for Saturday ballroom dancing

They will take place in the Great Hall on the Broadway campus on January 11 and 18.

Latin

There will be ballroom, Latin American and sequence dancing from 8pm until 11.30pm.

Entry costs £4 on the door and dancers need to bring their own refreshments.

For details call Fiona Bennett on 01384 243451.

Young singer is a rising star

A SCHOOLGIRL is celebrating musical success after winning a top award and making it through to the regional final of a singing competition.

Holly Wright picked up the Performing Arts Award at the Sandwell Star Awards and has also got through to the regional heats of the Teen Star UK open mic competition.

The 13-year-old from Cradley Heath attends Hillcrest School and Community College in Netherton.

Mother Michelle, 46, of Forest Drive, Cradley Heath, said: "She was invited to the Sandwell Star Awards and was awarded for performing arts and then she got through to the regional final of Teen Star UK at the NEC.

"She has progressed to the final which is being held in Huddersfield in May. I just don't know where she gets it from."

Award-winning Holly Wright, aged 13, has sung her way to the final of Teen Star UK

More than 800 are on donor list

MORE than 800 people are waiting for organ transplants in the West Midlands – and 17 have died in the region since April while on the waiting list, figures show.

NHS Blood andTransplant wants to encourage more people to sign up to the donor register and discuss the option with their family. There are a total of 554,000 registered donors in the Black Country and 305,000 in Staffordshire.

Fewer than 5,000 people each year die in circumstances where they can donate their organs, meaning there is always a need for more donations.

Ben Cole is a team manager with NHS Blood and Transplant's Midlands organ donation team. He said that when families agree to donation specialist nurses guide them through the process. "We want to ensure that more people get the lifesaving transplant they need,"added Mr Cole.

To join the NHS Organ Donor Register, visit the website www.organdonation. nhs.uk or call 0300 123 23 23.

Meanwhile, Tipton two-year-old boy Gaurav Bains at last got a bone marrow match and his essential operation at Birmingham Children's Hospital just before Christmas.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Top resolution must be making eduction priority number one

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'Let me be totally clear – plans to hand MPs a pay rise are completely bonkers and I won't be accepting it. I'm from Dudley and being the town's MP is a huge privilege'

WITH the start of the New Year, many people in Dudley will be making resolutions.

But I want our whole area to make a resolution to make education our number one priority in 2014.

Let's make this the year in which standards in the Black Country rise by more than anywhere else in the country.

We have some brilliant headteachers, some superb teachers and some great schools, but the whole community has to make this its priority.

It should be the number one thing for everyone from parents to businesses. They have to get involved and support their schools.

It's the only way we'll secure a bright future for Dudley with new industries and new jobs.

■■■

GEORGE Osborne was jubilant in December as he announced the first real growth in our economy since he stalled the recovery three years ago.

That's very welcome, but we need to see the benefits here in Dudley.

Unemployment here is still far too high. The latest figures show that 2,350 young people are out of work, almost 1 in 10.

When I left Castle High School in the eighties I remember how many of my friends ended up unemployed.

We can't afford another jobless generation in Dudley.

Prices have risen faster than wages almost every month since the Tories came in, and the strain of wages not keeping up with the rising cost of living is increasing.

Energy prices keep going up, food prices are rising 4.3 per cent year on year, childcare costs rose by £5 a week last year, and rents are up by 5 per cent.

All of these little rises add up to a massive 25 per cent rise in the cost of living over the last 5 years– at the same time as wages have stagnated.

In fact the pressure on working families is so bad the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has recently said that it has created 'an unprecedented erosion of household living standards'.

And I know from the many conversations I have with constituents that they are worried about the future – especially for their children.

I am collecting evidence from local families to show how they are experiencing economy recovery because I believe the Chancellor needs to see in black and white what is actually going on.

■■■

LOTS of local people have been asking me if I support plans to give MPs an 11 per cent pay increase.

Let me be totally clear – plans to hand MPs a pay rise are completely bonkers and I won't be accepting it.

I'm from Dudley and being the town's MP is a huge privilege.

It's a well-paid job but I earned more before I was an MP so I'm not in it for the money.

Times are tough for people in Dudley and when so many local families are struggling with the cost of living and others are subject to pay restraint, I'll use it to increase my support for good causes and organisations in Dudley.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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NEWS

Savannah continues family's fundraising

A 'LITTLE ANGEL' has honoured the memory of her great-grandfather by helping ex-service-men raise thousands of pounds.

Savannah Hunt joined members of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion, including her grandfather Colin, during collection days for this year's Poppy Appeal.

And the nine-year-old was also on hand to present staff and pupils at Withymoor Primary School, Brierley Hill, with this year's Charles Scott Shield at a ceremony.

Amount

The accolade, named in honour of her great-grandfather, is presented to the school which has improved the most on the amount it raised the previous year.

Staff and pupils at Withymoor raised more than £96 for the appeal – more than double the amount they achieved in 2012.

Charles Scott was aged just 20 when he took part in the Normandy landings in 1944 – one of 450 volunteers from the First East Riding Yeomanry sent to the beaches to clear the area for British gliders and planes. More than 15 of his comrades were killed.

Later during the fighting Mr Scott's tank was hit. He survived despite suffering injuries to his face. He was awarded the Queen's Medal for his actions. Upon returning home following the conflict he joined the British Legion and devoted himself to the Poppy Appeal to honour comrades who had not made it home.

He became president of the Quarry Bank branch and raised thousands of pounds for the appeal over the years.

Mr Scott died four years ago but his son, Colin, grandchildren Kerrie and Dean and now his great-grandaughter are continuing his legacy. Savannah, who attends Peters Hill Primary, plans to continue helping with the appeal.

Colin said: "Savannah is now the fourth generation of our family to get involved in helping to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

"She joins us on the collection days and explains to people what the appeal is all about. All of the members love her taking part. She is a little angel and we are very proud she is carrying on a legacy started by her great-grandfather."

Withymoor Primary headgirl Kayley Bennett, Savannah Hunt, centre, headboy Sam Lester, with family of Charles Scott and members of the Quarry Bank RBL

Charles Scott pictured during his Second World War service

Charles Scott proudly holds baby Savannah

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WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

NEWS

Nine metal thefts a day

METAL thieves struck on average nine times every day in the West Midlands over the past year.

But measures to ban cash payments for metal at scrapyards appear to be working as across the country the number of thefts began falling dramatically during the year.

Nationally, there were 20,151 cases from April to June 2012 but this fell to 12,076 in January to March of last year.

In the West Midlands, the second largest police force area in the country, there were 3,427 cases of metal theft reported over the whole year – more than nine a day.

Staffordshire Police dealt with 1,234 cases and West Mercia with 716.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Combating Metal Theft, said: "Metal theft has a huge impact and costs the economy around £220 million a year. This crime affects everyone – from the stealing of cables that delay someone's rail journey home to the shocking theft of war memorials.

Taskforce

"That is why the Government has tightened the net around rogue sellers and funded a new taskforce to crack down on metal theft."

Last year the Government clamped down on rogue metal sellers by banning all scrap metal dealers from trading in cash.

Dealers were told they had to instead pay for metal with a cheque or electronic transfer. However, some dealers have been taking advantage of a loophole in the new law by cashing in cheques on their premises

Police also got new powers of entry to tackle illegal trading in metal yards.

And last month the Scrap Metal Dealers Act came into force requiring dealers to be licensed.

The law allows councils to refuse or revoke licences if a dealer is deemed unsuitable and to give magistrates the power to issue rogue traders with fines of up to £5,000.

Everything from railways to libraries, war memorials and churches have been targeted by metal thieves determined to strip out lead and copper for cash.

Often, the cost of the damage is more than the value of the metal they steal.

Piles of dumped rubbish are an expensive blight

FLY-TIPPING is blighting communities across the Black Country, with thousands of compaints made by residents despite crackdowns.

The culprits have been branded 'despicable' by one council chief in Dudley, where the issue of fly-tipping is on the rise. It comes as Walsall Council prepares to offer residents £100 rewards for reporting fly-tippers.

Despicable

In Dudley, there have been 538 reports since April – up from 527 during the same period the previous year. In Wolverhampton there have been 3,162 cases since April, compared with 3,054 for the 2012-13 financial year.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for Dudley environment and culture, said: "People who dump rubbish in the borough are despicable and not only cause an eyesore but leave the hard-working taxpayer out of pocket."

Sixty two tons of rubbish was dumped in Wombourne and Himley in September, leaving a clean-up bill of more than £6,000.

Fly-tipping in Wombourne was one of many such incidents in the region

Law firm help air ambulance to earn money from estates

The legal team from Wall James Chappell in Stourbridge with members of the Midlands Air Ambulance crew based at RAF Cosford

STOURBRIDGE-BASED law firm Wall James Chappell has acted as lead advisor for the Midlands Air Ambulance on the charity's conversion to trust corporation status.

The move will enable the charity to administer estates and is of particular benefit due to the significant legacy income of the service.

Philip Chapman, head of corporate and charities at Wall James Chappell, explained: "In cases where the executors of a Will cannot, or do not wish to administer the estate, the charity can now do so with its trust corporation status. "Additionally, if a supporter contacts the charity and asks them to act as executor of his or her estate which he or she is intending to leave to the charity, the charity will be able to reassure him or her that they will be able to act.

"As a large charity, the Midlands Air Ambulance is able to employ qualified staff and can therefore impartially administer a trust or estate in-house."

Missions

Hanna Sebright, chief executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity said: "Four in every 10 missions we undertake are funded by a gift in a will, so to have trust corporation status to support our donors and carry out their wishes, has come as very welcome news.

"For charities that receive significant income from legacies, trust corporation status is worth considering."

For more information on legacy giving with the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, contact the team on 0800 8 40 20 40 or visit www.midland sairambulance.com

A Tipton Harriers great has died, 65

TRIBUTES have been paid to long-serving member of Tipton Harriers, Andy Holden, who has been hailed as one of its 'truly great characters'.

Mr Holden died at the weekend aged 65. The father-of-four is survived by his wife Paula.

Club president Ron Bentley said he would be 'missed by thousands'.

"He is the greatest club man Tipton has ever seen," said Mr Bentley.

Originally from Leyland, Mr Holden became the mainstay of many Lancashire cross country teams during his early years.

He won the National Junior Cross Country Championship in 1969 at Parliament Hill Fields in London and was a multiple Great Britain international over the roads, cross country, fells and on the track, both indoor and out, during the 1970s and early 1980s. He competed at the Commonwealth Games in 1970, European Championships in 1971 and Munich Olympics in 1972. He won gold with England teams during at the World Cross Country Championships.

Mr Holden went to University in Birmingham in 1968 where he studied dentistry and edited the campus newsletter. He qualified as a dentist and worked at a practices in Birmingham and Black Country.

Mr Holden was multiple medal winner in the classic harrier events.

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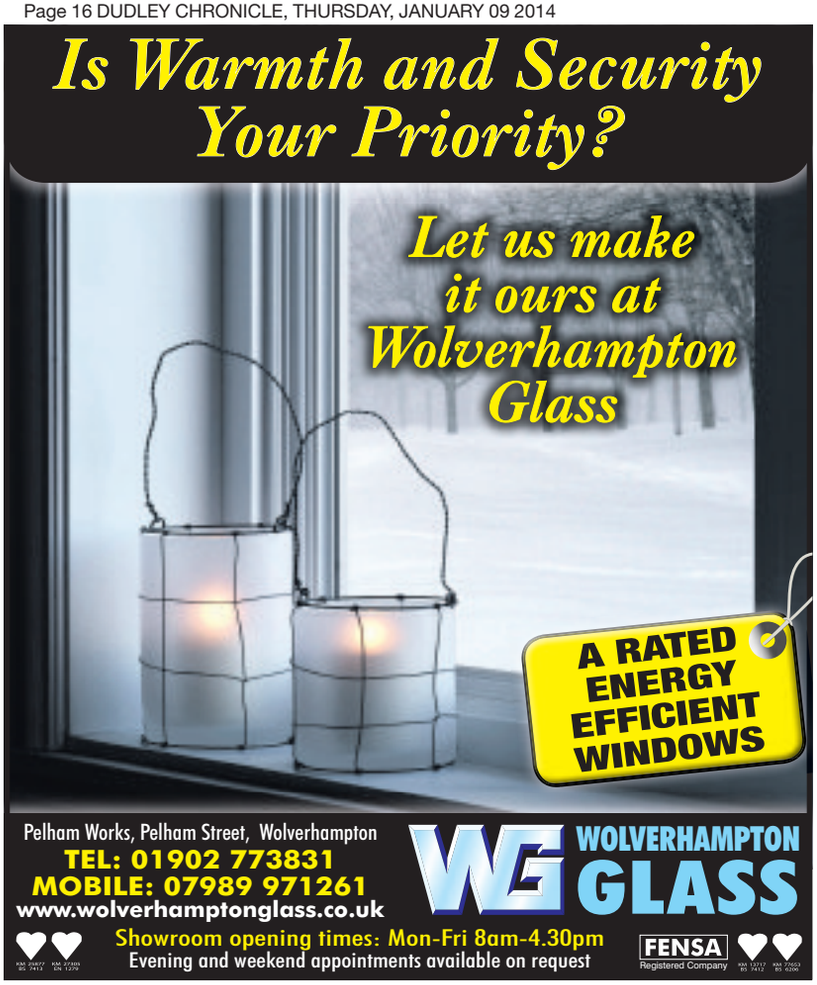

NEWS

Peggy dedicates 60 years to German shepherd dogs

Halesowen dog lover Peggy Jinks, 90, with her six-year-old German shepherd Carly

Peggy in her 20s with her dog Mandy

PEGGY Jinks has devoted almost 60 years of her life to breeding and caring for her German shepherd dogs.

But the tables were turned on the popular dog lover when fellow enthusiasts and friends threw a party marking her 90th birthday and achievements.

Members of the Birmingham south branch of the British Association for German Shepherd Dogs organised the party at the Tipton Sports and Social Club. They even had a birthday cake made in her honour, complete with a photograph showing her in her 20s with her first German shepherd, called Mandy.

Peggy joined the association in 1953 and retired as branch secretary in 2012. "The breed are so loveable and you can train them to do anything you want. I would not swap them for any other breed," said Peggy, of Middle Tree Road, Halesowen.

She joined the branch after being persuaded by her friend Marie O'Grady. They originally met on land where the Pebble Mill Studios once stood in Edgbaston.

The group, which now has around 40 members, runs dog obedience training for puppies and older dogs. It is now based at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, in Tividale.

Peggy has looked after 10 dogs over the years but did not think that she would have another after losing 13-year-old Ellie four-and-a-half years ago. But six months later her friends found an abandoned German shepherd and Peggy agreed to take her in and named her Carly.

Among Peggy's roles at the branch was to organise an annual open dog obedience show for the branch at Coseley School, attracting more than 1,000 entries every year.

If you're affected by dementia, Alzheimer's Society in the Black Country is here for you.

The range of services we provide include:

- Home care and support services in Dudley and Sandwell
- Saturday day club in Sandwell
- Dementia Support Workers – available in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton
- Dementia Cafés – operating in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton

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Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered charity number 296645.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Help is at hand for carers of sufferers

The Alzheimer's Society provides both emotional and practical support

LIVING with someone with dementia, or being a family carer who offers support to a loved one will at times be challenging.

You will see a person you care for change, they are likely to become forgetful and may well start to struggle with things that they have done routinely over the years, such as cooking or taking part in ordinary social activities.

There may also be other concerns which you will not have considered in the past; for example how to arrange for care services, which benefits a person with dementia may be entitled to, or discussing plans for the future.

At these times Alzheimer's Society has experienced and trained staff to help you. We have been providing care and support services for people with all types of dementia, their carers and families within the Black Country for almost thirty years.

Alzheimer's Society provides:

● Registered care services, based in people's homes, which give short breaks for carers and meaningful and stimulating activities for people with dementia helping them to maintain a level of independence and to feel less isolated.

● Dementia support workers provide emotional and practical support to carers and family members by helping them to understand dementia, to find coping strategies and to signpost or refer them to other organisations who can provide specialist help and assistance.

● A dementia adviser in Sandwell who works directly with people in the early stages of dementia to make sure they are taking an active role in the community doing things that they enjoy and are meaningful to them.

● Dementia cafés provide a safe place for people with dementia, their families and friends to meet others in a similar situation for information, support and social interaction.

● An information worker in Wolverhampton who delivers presentations about dementia to a range of organisations from community groups and schools to GP surgeries.

For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society Black Country office by emailing blackcountryoffice@alzheimers.org.uk or call 0121 521 3020.

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers.

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MEMORY LANE

Oldbury Rep – a scene from Merchant of Venice, 1956

Beginnings – Oldbury Parish Rooms, where it all started

The theatre group in a scene from Red Peppers in 1956

Barlow Playhouse, which is now the Barlow Theatre

A very young Doreen seen on stage at the theatre as Aladdin in 1955

The shows go on

Panto – Georgina Smith and Aiden Colwell

Doreen Bastable, aged 85

by Adam Grinsell

THEY HAVE survived a world war and an arson attack which completely gutted their theatre, but as the new year begins, one amateur dramatics group will be celebrating its 75th season.

Started in 1939, The Oldbury Repertory Players, or Oldbury Rep as they are better known, are currently staging their 490th major production – Jack And The Beanstalk.

Over the years more than 1,000 different people have graced their stage, including three generations of the same families. Relationships have also been forged within the group, with some meeting their spouses on stage.

One of those to meet their partners at the group was Doreen Bastable, aged 85, who has been chairman of the Rep for 35 years and a member for 70 years since she was 15.

Mrs Bastable, from Mucklow Hill in Halesowen, said: "My husband Daniel was a builder, and he helped to make the theatre what it is today – he helped to reconstruct the building when we bought it. We were married in 1959 after I met him a couple of years before when I was performing."

Mr Bastable was also very involved in the reconstruction of the theatre after an arson attack destroyed almost everything in the 1972. Mrs Bastable added: "That was a blow, but we raised ourselves from the ashes."

The Oldbury Repertory Players were formed by the attendees of an elocution night class at Oldbury Technical School just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and started in the Oldbury Parish Rooms.

Their first performance was a self-grown stageshow called Tonight At 7.30, involving various sketches, and they continued right through the war.

"It was a struggle to start with," Mrs Bastable said. "People were being called up to the forces or to do shift work, but we did survive."

As the company continued to grow, it purchased the Methodist Chapel and School in Spring Street, now Spring Walk, in Langley, for £1,700 thanks to an interest free loan from the company's then president CT Barlow.

Over the next few years the chapel was converted into a theatre and in January 1956 opened as The Barlow Playhouse – it is now known as Barlow Theatre, and has its own bar and 173-seat auditorium.

The parents of company secretary Christopher Smith, 56, were founder members of the group, and he also met his wife Lisa there.

His daughters Cassandra and Georgina have both performed with the group too – Georgina is playing the Princess in the latest production.

He said: "The company gives you a comradeship, it's a friendship – we have a great social life with things like quiz nights, so it's not just about rehearsing and putting on plays."

Company members, which in the past have included Old Hill comedienne and former Eastenders actress Josie Lawrence in their ranks, also build the sets, do the lighting, work behind the bars and do the marketing. It receives no grants, so the only way it makes any money is by 'putting bums on seats'.

Jack And The Beanstalk takes place from January 10 to 18. To buy tickets and for more information about the company, including how to become a member, see **www.oldburyrep.org**

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NEWS FEATURE

Author's insight into what made Steve McQueen tick

Richard Sydenham spent 17 years researching McQueen

UNHAPPY with the way his latest movie was going, and troubled by his own infidelities, Steve McQueen asked his wife Neile Adams if she had ever betrayed him. She insisted she hadn't.

Report by Mark Andrews

Unconvinced, he made her take cocaine, and continued with his interrogation, until eventually she confessed to a one-night stand. Then, in a state of fury, he produced a pistol, and pointed it at her head until she revealed the name of the man with whom she had cheated.

Frightened

Behind those piercing blue eyes and effortless magnetism lay a troubled and insecure individual, whose frailties are laid bare in a dramatic new book by Black Country author Richard Sydenham.

Sydenham, a 39-year-old father-of-two from Cradley Heath, has spent 17 years researching his 619-page book Steve McQueen: The Cooler King.

The book, released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Great Escape film reveals how McQueen's rugged faced masked a paranoid and sometimes violent man, scarred by the maternal neglect he experienced as a child, and fearful that one day his career would come crashing down.

"The only thing Steve was ever secure about was his appeal to women," says Hollywood veteran Robert Vaughn, in his foreword for the book. "Steve was a frightened man about all sorts of things from money, stardom, life in general, but he was especially insecure about his stardom."

Vaughn, who appeared alongside McQu-een in three movies, remembers how his friend had an obsessive rivalry with leading man Yul Brynner during the filming of The Magnificent Seven. "He was constantly knocking on my door at six in the morning and he'd say, about Brynner, 'Did you see how big his gun was? Did you see how big his horse was? He was always worried Yul was going to steal the film from him."

McQueen's philandering was the stuff of legend. The book reveals on one occasion McQueen accosted a pretty girl in the street with the line 'I'm Steve McQueen, let's go and have a little bit,' and she immediately jumped onto the back of his motorcycle. Yet paradoxically, Sydenham says he was always a committed family man, who felt a great bond of loyalty to all three of his wives.

Sydenham believes it was his own guilt, which would often weigh down heavily on his shoulders, which led to the incident with the gun during the filming of his troubled 1971 motor-racing movie, Le Mans. "Steve could not understand that she knew of so many affairs that he had had over the course of their marriage, yet remained faithful to him," says Sydenham.

Shortly after, at their chateau in France, Neile discovered she was pregnant with their third child, and McQueen ordered her to have an abortion, saying he could not be sure the child was his. Neile's confession would ultimately spell the end of their marriage, and the couple were divorced after 16 years in 1972.

During the writing of the book, Sydenham managed to persuade Jacqueline Bisset to break her silence about rumours that she had an affair with McQueen when they appeared together in Bullitt. "No, we did not have an affair," says Bisset, now 69. "Yes he was handsome and there was a little bit of teasing, but nothing happened."

During the making of The Thomas Crown Affair, McQueen's obsession with detail drove the crew to distraction.

He tried on four different wristwatches, and hated them all, and eventually it was agreed that McQueen's own watch looked better on him than any of the expensive ones that had been purchased for the sharp-suited character.

The next day, McQueen dumbfounded the production team by issuing them with a 250 dollar bill for the rental of his watch.

In The Towering Inferno, he insisted that the brim on his fireman's helmet should be cut back so it would not cast a shadow on his eyes.

"He was told that if they changed his they'd have to change everyone's," says co-star Susan Blakely. He said: "Then change 'em!'"

Frailties laid bare – Steve McQueen in The Magnificent Seven

Co-star Jacqueline Bisset

McQueen with Dustin Hoffman in the classic Papillon

As the fire chief in The Towering Inferno

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Weddings
at Himley Hall

Himley Hall is an eighteenth century Grade II* listed building set in 180 acres of 'Capability Brown' landscaped parkland. As the former stately home of the Earls of Dudley Himley Hall was a luxurious, up-to-date home, so fashionable that in the 1930's it was a regular weekend retreat for Royal visitors, including Edward, Prince of Wales. In 1934 the Duke and Duchess of Kent spent the first two weeks of their honeymoon at Himley.

Today, couples may marry where Royal newlyweds once took their honeymoon, and photograph their special day in the grounds where princes and earls once strolled.

Marriage Rooms

Himley Hall has two main rooms licensed for civil wedding ceremonies. The Pink Room, once the Library of Himley Hall, overlooks the terrace gardens and has views towards the Great Lake. It is suitable for wedding ceremonies for up to 45 guests and has the added advantage of private access onto the terrace for photographs or refreshments. The elegant Green Room, originally the formal Dining Room of the Earl's of Dudley and complete with historic chandelier, also overlooks the terrace gardens with stunning views towards the lake. It is suitable for up to 75 guests.

Wedding Breakfasts

The celebration after your wedding ceremony completes your perfect day. Wedding receptions may be held in most of Himley Hall's refurbished rooms.

The elegance of Himley is epitomised by the grandeur of its former Dining Room - the Green Room, complete with its imposing 'air-twist' crystal chandelier. Wedding guests can celebrate in historic chic surroundings, enjoying window views overlooking the Great Pool. The warmth and intimacy of Himley's Oak Room, Himley Hall's former Billiard Room, offers guests the sophistication of a by-gone era combined with the cosiness of discreet luxury that sensitive restoration has created. The Green Room and Oak Room are available as part of a wedding package for smaller wedding breakfasts ranging from 45-56 persons.

The North Wing

The North Wing, which once housed the Earl of Dudley's swimming pool and private cinema, has been transformed into an elegant Art-Deco style banqueting suite and lounge bar, perfect for larger wedding breakfasts and evening celebrations.

Magnificent 1930's style bespoke lighting, period decor and stylish soft furnishings highlight the superb attention to detail which has established Himley Hall's North Wing as a dazzling venue.

The Swimming Pool room includes a dance floor and lighting, specifically designed for evening functions. It can cater for 57-90 guests for a seated meal and between 80-120 guests for an evening event.

The Cinema Bar offers a sumptuous retreat from the lively Swimming Pool during your celebration. Exquisite 1930's style café bar furniture sit adjacent to the 'birds-eye' maple and chrome bar, overlooked by images of stars of the silver screen from the Art Deco era.

Himley Hall Wedding Open Day - Seeing Is Better Than Imagining

On Sunday 19th January from 11.am until 4.00 pm Himley Hall opens its doors for a special 'Open Day' and invites couples and their families to view the ceremony rooms exactly as it can be for their perfect day

Because seeing reality is better than imagination, each of Himley's licensed rooms will be set out ready for a ceremony and the Swimming Pool Room and Oak Room will be arranged for celebration receptions, complete with floral decorations

Experienced wedding co-ordinators and catering managers will be available to discuss options available to couples and Registrars from the Staffordshire Registration Service will be on hand to guide couples through the civil ceremony process at Himley Hall.

The Weddings Open Day at Himley is free admission so why not pop in for a coffee and chat and see if Himley can make your 'perfect day?'

For further details about the Wedding Open Day or Civil Wedding or Partnership Ceremonies at Himley Hall contact 01384 817817.

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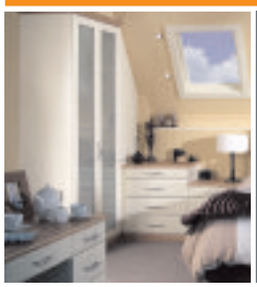

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1952 Box No: 366019**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1953 Box No: 407321**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285**

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449**

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

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Men seeking women

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PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443**

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409363**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585**

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's, athletic, seeks good natured, intelligent female, 50-57 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991**

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

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NEWS

Young gymnast's victory is dedicated to grandad

Korben Fellows, aged 11, of Coseley, who has won the Great Britain gymnastics championship for the under-12s

WHEN he had sad news on the eve of competing in a national gymnastics contest, young Korben Fellows vowed: "I'll do it for Grandad."

The 11-year-old from Coseley was devastated when he heard his beloved grandfather, Frank Hale, aged 83, of Moxley, had died. Korben was preparing for the Great Britain under-12s championships in Glasgow when he heard the news.

"Korben cried himself to sleep that night," said his mother Lisa, 41.

"But he said he was going to do it for his grandad and Korben was amazing in the competition."

The talented gymnast scooped gold in the pommel, rings and high bar disciplines. As well as being crowned overall champion, Korben, a Coseley School pupil, won the Nik Stuart award for the 'most amazing talent'.

Korben lives with his parents Wayne and Lisa, brothers Kai, nine, and Klay, six, and sister Keirie, three, in Legg Lane.

Along with his siblings, he attends the City of Birmingham Gymnastics Club. He was talent-spotted at the age of just 18 months by coach Lee Woolls during a play session at Earls High School, Halesowen.

Frank Hale and baby Korben

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COMMERICAL FEATURE

Parrys blazing the trail with luxury coach travel

AWARD-winning coach tour company Parrys International is all set for a bumper year in 2014, after customer power persuaded the Cheslyn Hay firm to continue for the next few years.

After 40 successful years Managing Director Dave Parry had announced his retirement and that the firm would close, but after a huge outcry from both customers, trade and hotel suppliers, he was persuaded to change his mind.

Now it's business as usual with a fantastic programme of coach holidays, short breaks and a full investment of more than £4 million in new, luxury Coaches.

Parrys International already have the reputation of providing the best touring coaches in the UK. This has been taken to a new level with in seat entertainment fitted to every Coach – the first touring fleet in the world to provide such a system.

Facilities

Complimentary headsets will be provided for all long haul tours and together with the other on-board facilities, they will provide the ultimate in luxury coach travel – the same as long haul aircraft.

Parrys operate quality UK Coach tours in association with big hotel names such as Hilton and Marriott.

Continental destinations include regular departures to Italy, Austria, Spain and Germany all with comfortable overnight stops each way and exciting short breaks to Paris, the Dutch bulbfields, Bruges and Ireland.

Coach travel can be so rewarding with all details taken care of by a friendly and professional crew, who can show you the very best of Britain and Europe in comfort and above all – complete safety!

Coach holidays are unique and represent great value for money with interesting itineraries, first class hotels and the ultimate in spacious, air-conditioned coach travel.

Parrys has just released its 2014 holiday brochure packed with new and favourite tours and popular weekends.

Once again the company will be main team sponsors of Wolverhampton speedway for a record 14th Year. This Sunday, January 12, Parrys International opens to the public with their annual open day.

There will be trade exhibitors, coaches on display, special offers and lots of interesting items including the management and a star rider from Wolverhampton speedway. It will be open from 10am to 3pm.

It all takes place at the Cheslyn Hay site, Landywood Green, off Landywood Lane near Landywood Railway Station. Other Coach firms have tried to copy or follow Parrys International but the Company remains one of the most respected coach tour operators in the United Kingdom and will remain so for some years to come.

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Settle in, relax and then take Dinner in the Restaurant.

DAY TWO
English Cooked Breakfast before our tour highlight.

We visit and include admission into Highclere Castle – The setting for Downton Abbey.

View the remarkable interiors used in the filming of the scenes and the extensive Gardens – Taking you back in time to this remarkable period.

Our day also includes a visit to the historic City of Winchester with its many attractions, Museums, Shops and magnificent Cathedral.

Dinner is included again at the Hilton this Evening.

DAY THREE
Our breakfast is taken at leisure and we then depart to the village of 'Downton', where the outdoor views of the Church and Hospital are recorded.

From here we make a Lunch stop at the Oxfordshire Village of Woodstock before continuing to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon.
Admission is included to this superb collection of Motor Vehicles dating back to the start of 'Downton' Series.

We return late afternoon.

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- Visit to Cirencester
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- Visit to Winchester
- Visit to Downton Village
- Visit to Woodstock
- Admission to Heritage Motor Museum
- Hotel Leisure Centre

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Wednesday	23	July	199.50
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What's On! Dudley

Red Lion will host Daredevils band

THE Red Lion Folk Club in Birmingham will be hosting Black Country musicians The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils along with Stourbridge blues singer Sunjay Brayne on January 15. Brayne has just come from a tour supporting Steeleye Span and recently released an album of him playing live

The club in Vicarage Road, Kings Heath meets on Wednesdays at 7.15pm. Northern singer and raconteur Jez Lowe will also be appearing there on January 22.

For more information visit www.redlionfolkclub.co.uk.

New venture for young musicians

A NEW venture is coming to the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton.

Fiddle player Faye Brookes is staging the Folk Lounge at the Dunkley Street venue in Whitmore Reans, which is a platform to give young musicians exposure.

The event is on January 25 from 7.30pm and tickets are £5. For more information contact 01902 572090.

Lowings back for home ground gig

STOURBRIDGE group Kim Lowings and the Greenwood will be at The Woodman Folk Club at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford on January 24. The group is a collective of local musicians fronted by singer Lowings. Visit www.woodmanfolk.co.uk.

Magical snowman returns to enthrall new generations

The show will be filled with all manner of familiar and wonderfully colourful characters

THE magic of Raymond Briggs' frosty friend The Snowman has been enthralling young and old alike for more than three decades and now The Birmingham Repertory Theatre is bringing him to life once again.

The stage show, based upon the book by Briggs, will run at the venue until Saturday January 18.

The Snowman tells the magical story of a young boy's adventures when his snowman miraculously comes to life on Christmas Eve.

A glittering host of international snowmen and snow women will be joined onstage by colourful characters including dancing penguins, magical reindeer, a beautiful snow princess and her abominable beau Jack Frost and Father Christmas himself.

The Snowman first appeared as a beautifully illustrated picture book by Raymond Briggs in 1978.

Performance Times: 11am, 3pm and 7pm on Saturday 11 and 18; 2pm and 7pm on Friday 10, Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17; 3pm Friday 17.

There will also be backstage tours on Saturdays 11 and 18 at 11am. They cost £5 (£3 concessions). Audio described performance and Touch Tours run on Sunday 12 3pm. Touch Tour starts at 1.30pm.

The magic of The Snowman

The shows are suitable for children aged four and upwards.

Tickets are£12.50 – £35 and for more information contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Online booking: birmingham-rep.co.uk.

Music from both sides of Atlantic

THE famous Transatlantic Sessions featuring some of the biggest names from the world of folk and acoustic music is coming to Birmingham next month.

Musicians Aly Bain and Jerry Douglas have put together another collection of world renowned musicians from both sides of the pond including Kris Drever, Shawn Colvin and Mike McGoldrick among many others.

The show at Symphony Hall is on Thursday February 6 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £27.50 plus booking fee and for more information visit www.thsh.co.uk.

Folk founders in concert as a duo

FOUNDER members of award-winning group Bellowhead, Spiers & Boden, will be playing as a duo at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on March 18.

Double BBC Folk award winners for best duo Jon Boden and John Spiers will be coming to the venue on the back of Bellowhead's 10th anniversary bash.

Tickets are £16.50 including booking fee and for more information visit www. wolvescivic.co.uk.

Singer Sermanni set for Glee date

SCOTTISH singer/songwriter Rachel Sermanni is coming to the Glee Club, Birmingham on February 7. Tickets are £7 plus booking fee and doors open at 8.30pm. For more information visit www.glee.co.uk/birmingham.

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star extra TRAVEL

Victoria Falls
Botswana Safari and Cape Town

Beginning in Zambia, staying close to the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest single body of falling water in the world, a sunset cruise along the mighty Zambezi on the African Queen will be the first spectacular experience. As the boat glides across this expanse of a river inhabited by hippo and crocodiles, simply relax in a wicker armchair and absorb the unique surroundings.

At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants – it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

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SATURDAY'S TV 11.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Shane Richie

Reflex
BBC1, 6.15pm
In EastEnders this week, Alfie begins planning a trip to Australia. Is it because he's already fed up of being reunited with Kat – or did Shane Richie need a break so he could host this promising new game show? Yes, the actor is getting back to his light entertainment roots with Reflex, which as the name suggests, is all about reaction times. Each week, two teams of three family members will be tested in a series of challenges designed to find out who has the speediest reflexes. And that could involve anything from being fired into the air to responding to explosions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross-Country. **2.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Dynamo: Magician Impossible.

6.15 Reflex. New series. Shane Richie hosts this game show in which two families battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. The first contestants are from London and Essex.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson join Tom Jones and Will.i.am as coaches in the return of the chair-spinning singing contest.

8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects.

9.20 Casualty. Lily and new doctor Ethan try to diagnose what is wrong with a teacher showing strange symptoms, while Zoe and Tess fight to save the life of Dixie's girlfriend.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Hull City v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** The Informer. (1935) **7.55 Film:** I Married a Witch. (1942) **9.10** Life on Earth. (R) **10.05** Life on Earth. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **12.50 Film:** Summer Magic. (1963) **2.35 Film:** The Go-Between. (1971) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships.

6.00 Flog It! Contestants in Swansea hope a Moorcroft vase will beat their Hartlepool rivals' Clarice Cliff pottery at auction. (R)

7.00 Nature's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham investigates reports of fish "walking" out of the water in Florida, bees in France that are making multicoloured honey, and trees oozing a blood-red liquid. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit. (R)

8.30 Morecambe & Wise: The Curtains. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they chatted to each other – and their guests – in front of the stage curtains. (R)

9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. With Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr.

10.15 Film: Burke and Hare. (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg.

11.40 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the eighth day at the Lakeside Country Club.

12.30 Film: They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Countrywise. (R) **11.45** ITV News; Weather. **11.55 Film:** Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) **1.55** The Chase. (R) **2.55** Boyzone at 20: No Matter What. (R) **3.55** Show Me the Telly. (R) **4.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.05** ITV News; Weather. **5.20 Film:** Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006)

7.00 Splash! Another line-up of celebrities compete for two places in the semi-final of the diving contest, under the tutelage of Tom Daley. Hosted by Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan.

8.30 Take Me Out. A psychic single dad, a bodybuilder, a train enthusiast and a children's party planner try to win a date with one of 30 single women.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host invites Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart, ice-dance duo Torvill and Dean, funnyman Griff Rhys Jones and businesswoman Karren Brady for a chat. Kodaline provide the music.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Miami Vice. (2006) Crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 American Football Playoff Highlights. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Taste. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Channel 4 News. **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Engineer Brian Hodges hosts the penultimate dinner party in Nottingham and decides to rope in his local butcher to help out in the kitchen. (R)

6.45 Come Dine with Me. Barry Dickman hosts the final dinner party in Nottingham. (R)

7.15 Film: Crocodile Dundee. (1986) An Australian hunter with a larger-than-life reputation accompanies a reporter from the Outback to the urban jungle of Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski.

9.00 Hostages. New series. A surgeon faces a moral dilemma when masked men take her family hostage and order her to kill her next patient – the US president. Thriller, starring Toni Collette.

10.00 Film: Wanted. (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.

12.00 Film: House of Flying Daggers. (2004) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Access. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** World's Busiest Hotel. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) **4.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **5.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R)

6.05 Mr & Mrs Murder. Charlie and Nicola are called to clean up a crime scene at a golf club after a dispute between dog walkers and players results in murder.

7.00 CSI: NY. A teenager is shot in front of his younger brother. (R)

7.45 NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood. (R)

8.40 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** True CSI. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.40** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Nasa – Triumph and Tragedy **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story

ITV2
2.30 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.30** You've Been Framed! **6.30 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.30 Film:** Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) **10.50** The Magaluf Weekender **11.55 Film:** The Interpreter (2004)

ITV3
9.05am Agatha Christie's Poirot. Back-to-back episodes. **11.00** Prime Suspect. A country club manager is found dead.

ITV4
3.45 Film: A Reason to Live, A Reason to Die (1972) **5.35 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **10.00 Film:** Firefox (1982)

E4
4.00 2 Broke Girls **5.00** Rules of Engagement **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube: Epic Skills

Film4
3.10 King Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **9.00** Dogma (1999) Comedy fantasy, with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino. **11.25** Evil Dead II (1987)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Simon Reeve

The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 8pm
Adventurer Simon Reeve is getting out and about again. He's not long back from his jaunt to the other side of the world after his exploration of Australia, but you can't keep this man on terra firma for too long, so this time he's jetting off to Africa where he's looking into the stories behind our favourite beverage – tea. He's in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, where most of the leaves for tea bags are bought at auction, before moving on through eastern Africa to meet some of the millions of people who pick, pack and transport it.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Real Lives Reunited. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Dolphins – Spy in the Pod. (R) **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. John Craven and Helen Skelton head to Surrey, where he explores the countryside favoured by Arthur Conan Doyle and she talks to an artist with an all-consuming passion for horses.

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. Last in the series.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. From the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich.

8.30 Sherlock. The consulting detective takes on master blackmailer Charles Augustus Magnussen, a man who knows the secrets of every person of importance in the Western world. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Newcastle United v Manchester City.

11.25 The Revolution Will Be Televised. Satirical comedy sketches. James and Barnaby visit Brussels.

11.55 Film: Cemetery Junction. (2010) Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke.

1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** A Woman's Secret. (1949) Mystery, starring Maureen O'Hara. **8.05** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final.

8.00 The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the tea industry in eastern Africa, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK.

9.00 Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. The historian and his team conclude their recreation of the pioneering 280-mile expedition through the natural wonder that was led by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.

10.00 Film: Let Me In. (2010) Premiere. A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, with Chloe Grace Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

11.50 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v John Higgins. Hazel Irvine presents action from the second match in round one of the non-ranking tournament at Alexandra Palace in London.

12.40 Snooker Extra. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. Jac goes into early labour. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Inside the National Trust. **12.35** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.35** Catchphrase. (R) **2.20** Splash! (R) **3.50** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **4.50** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. The second seven celebrities take to the ice.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Paul Potts and Ann Widdecombe.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. Two more couples leave the competition.

9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst. Compilation of clangers from the programme's history.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Dorien discovers she has no money. Sitcom, with Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. (R)

10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Mary Berry. The Great British Bake Off judge looks back on her life and career. (R)

11.45 River Monsters. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** 27 Dresses. (2008) **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty present dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier, joined by guests including athlete Usain Bolt, who prepares jerk pork. (R)

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world.

9.00 Film: Fast Five. (2011) Premiere. A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Adventure, starring Vin Diesel.

11.35 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.40 Southland. (R) **2.25** Coming Up: Sink or Swim. (R) **2.50** How Not to Get Old. (R) **3.45** Secret Eaters. (R) **4.40** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.35** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Mio Mao. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** Slugterra. (R) **11.05** Access. **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.10** World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) **1.15 Film:** Holes. (2003) **3.30 Film:** Space Jam. (1996) **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson.

7.05 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman.

11.55 Hens Behaving Badly. A bride-to-be parties in Newcastle before emigrating to Australia. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05** My Depression Diaries: Kerry Katona. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.35 Film:** 102 Dalmatians (2000) **10.05** Family Guy **10.50** American Dad! **11.35** Bad Education

BBC Four
7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways **9.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **10.00** Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes – The Many Faces of a Master Detective **11.00 Film:** White Elephant (2012)

ITV2
3.30 Film: Step Up (2006) **5.45 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.00** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays **9.00** The Magaluf Weekender **10.00 Film:** The Butterfly Effect (2004)

ITV3
9.00 Being Poirot **10.00 Film:** In the Name of the Father (1993)

ITV4
1.10 Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) **4.35 Film:** Horizons West (1952) **6.15 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00 Film:** Absolute Power (1997) **11.30 Film:** The Enforcer (1976)

E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00 Film:** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **9.40** Rude Tube **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
3.25 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **5.10** The Truman Show (1998) **7.15** Post Grad (2009) **9.00** Coming to America (1988) An African prince journeys to the USA to escape an arranged marriage and search for a worthy wife. Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall. **11.15** Sixteen Candles (1985)

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Film Choices

MONDAY
300, ITV, 10.35pm
Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the vast invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley's comic-book series, starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, David Wenham and Rodrigo Santoro. (2006)

TUESDAY
Disturbia, BBC1, 11.35pm
A troubled teenager is sentenced to three months under house arrest for attacking a teacher, and passes the time by spying on his neighbours. However, one day he notices something suspicious and becomes convinced one of them is a serial killer. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Carrie-Anne Moss, David Morse and Sarah Roemer. (2007)

Tropic Thunder, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.05pm
A director's epic Vietnam picture is behind schedule and over budget. Taking the advice of the grizzled war veteran on whose life the film is based, he drops the actors into a jungle with the intention of filming them fighting guerrilla-style – but the cast is unaware the surrounding warfare is genuine. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black, Steve Coogan and, in an Oscar-nominated role, Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

THURSDAY
Avenging Angel, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A preacher dusts off his gun after outlaws murder his wife and child, destroy his church and wreak havoc in the town. Turning his back on the cloth, he heads for the desert to begin a new life as a bounty hunter, only to return to the community several years later. Finding the villains are still there and causing trouble, he decides to make them pay. Western, with Kevin Sorbo, Wings Hauser, Nick Chinlund, Cynthia Watros, Fred Cross, Jim Haynie, Richard Lee Jackson and Joey King. (2007)

FRIDAY
Saw II, Channel 4, 11.35pm
The sinister criminal Jigsaw is preparing to mete out his deranged and sadistic form of justice on more hapless victims. Meanwhile, a cop is desperately searching for the madman and the gruesome prison where he is holding eight terrified strangers. Horror sequel, starring Donnie Wahlberg, Shawnee Smith, Tobin Bell, Franky G, Glenn Plummer, Dina Meyer, Emmanuelle Vaugier and Beverley Mitchell. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Latest case is far from elementary for Holmes

Take a deep breath Sherlock fans and prepare for the end. Yes, it's the final episode of the current run, and considering the reaction to the last series' finale, it's anyone's guess how millions of fans will cope.

There's a good bet Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) won't be killed off – again, but how safe is John Watson (Martin Freeman)?

Has the sleuth finally met his match as he clashes with Charles Augustus Magnussen (Lars Mikkelsen), aka the Napoleon of blackmail?

He's a man who knows the personal weakness of every person of importance in the Western world, and Holmes loathes him for his most unscrupulous line of criminal business.

As ever, Steven Moffat has penned what promises to be a cracking instalment, and while we have no clue as to whether a fourth series will see the light of day, we can but hope Moffat and co-creator Mark Gatiss work their magic with the many other Holmes tales which have yet to be given a 21st-century spin.

Martin Freeman had a great time making the new series, especially during the first read through.

"It was good – it had a kind of familiarity about it, we had new people joining which was lovely," he explains. "Given that it was our third time, or fourth including the pilot, it just feels nice and familiar. It's always exciting because the scripts are so good."

Two years after he witnessed his best friend's death, it was inevitable John Watson would take time to heal before he could move on.

"His best friend had died horribly in front of him, which took a long time to get over, but the way that his life has moved on is that he has fallen in love with Mary," explains Freeman.

(Mary is played by Martin's real-life partner Amanda Abbington in case you missed their charming appearance together on The One Show before Christmas).

"He is leading a functional, normal-ish life really which doesn't have the highs and lows of his life with Sherlock but is certainly a bit more steady. But there is a sadness with John which will always be with him when you lose someone that you love – he is slightly dulled by life."

The last series was topped and tailed by a couple of standout episodes. Some fans think A Scandal in Belgravia was the best episode to date, while others think The Reichenbach Falls takes some beating.

But what is Freeman's favourite episode?

"I have to say the ones that we have just filmed have been brilliant," he enthuses. "Before that, probably Reichenbach was my favourite one to do because when we read it I was really, really excited and I thought the finished product was amazing. It was one of the best things that I've ever done and am likely to do for a while."

With good support from Gatiss, Una Stubbs, Louise Brealey, and Rupert Graves, this should either leave you amazed, and possibly a bit miffed if it's another cliffhanger.

Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Sherlock, Sunday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Go Hard or Go Home
Channel 5, 8pm
It's a brand new year, and all that turkey is still sitting heavy (according to the weighing scales at least), so it's little wonder our attention is turning towards getting fit again. And if you needed any more motivation, look no further than this four-part series. It sees ordinary members of the public taking part in some of the world's most extreme endurances races, with only 12 weeks to train. This is the brainchild of Hannah White, who's sailed the Atlantic three times solo and is a competitive long-distance cyclist, mountain biker and runner. In this first episode, she's training up four doctors before they face The Bonebreaker, a 127-mile bike race that runs through the high peaks of the Pyrenees, crossing the Franco-Spanish border twice.

Dave: Loan Ranger
Channel 4, 10pm
Dave Fishwick has already shown that he's got clout when it comes to matters of money, after successfully fighting the regulators to open his own small 'depository' in the Bank of Dave series. But he's still not satisfied because since opening his bank, he's seen first-hand how the poorest in society can become saddled with unthinkable amounts of debt after borrowing money from a new breed of moneylenders – payday loan companies. So Dave's on a new mission to help these people out, and tests out a selection of high-risk loans for people who have got into payday loan problems, offering them a preferable rate of interest in an attempt to get them back on track.

TUESDAY
The Taste
Channel 4, 9pm
Just when you thought every possible culinary show format had been exhausted, along comes another one to shake the genre up a little bit. Last week, viewers saw TV cook Nigella Lawson, food maverick Anthony Bourdain and chef Ludo Lefebvre hand-pick the contestants they felt had the potential to win a battle of the taste buds – their challenge each week is to create the most flavoursome recipe they can, with help from their famous mentors. This week, Richard Corrigan also joins in the fun by setting the first task – a prawn cocktail.

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
ITV, 9pm
Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie. So it's only fitting that he'd be asked to present this three-part series in which he meets animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these animals – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed. First, Paul visits SANCCOB, a sanctuary which looks after seabirds.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey, Friday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
The Restoration Man
Channel 4, 8pm
One thing's for certain; George Clarke could never complain of being bored in his job. The architect gets to meet people from all walks of life for this telly gem – which would be interesting enough – and takes a nosey into their renovation plans, often rolling back his sleeves and getting in on the action himself. This week, he meets fellow architect Neil Worrell and his partner Jackie Robinson, who are making a rather big commitment. Never having lived together before, they're now going to cement their relationship by purchasing an unused church in the picturesque fishing town of Brixham in Devon.

Finding Mum and Dad
Channel 4, 10pm
When many people think about adoption, they probably imagine taking home a new baby, who will never have known any other parents. But the reality is that many of the children in most need of a family are older, and that can bring with it a new set of challenges. In this fascinating documentary, we're introduced to Connor and Daniel, who as sibling boys aged six and four are already classed as 'hard to place.' In the past, that may have suggested they were destined to spend their lives in the system, but the authorities are exploring new ways to find children the stable homes they need. Filmed over the course of 12 months, this programme goes behind the scenes of an innovative new scheme designed to find potential mums and dads.

THURSDAY
Hidden Kingdoms
BBC1, 8pm
With the new year comes a wonderful new documentary from the BBC. The list of natural history programmes over the past few years is staggering, especially considering the quality of them. Three-part series Hidden Kingdoms is the latest and reveals the survival techniques employed by some of the animal kingdom's smallest creatures. This week, we observe the grasshopper mouse of North America's Sonoran desert. Despite its stature, it is capable of disarming scorpions twice its size, and its power and athleticism allow it to avoid rattlesnakes and tarantulas.

FRIDAY
Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey
ITV, 9pm
The actor most associated with his comic role as Tony in Men Behaving Badly talks openly for the first time about his infamous affair with Amanda Holden. He reflects on being taken into care when he was just 10 years old and reveals how Mel Gibson was happy for him to pretend to be his brother when they became drinking pals.

CHRONICLE

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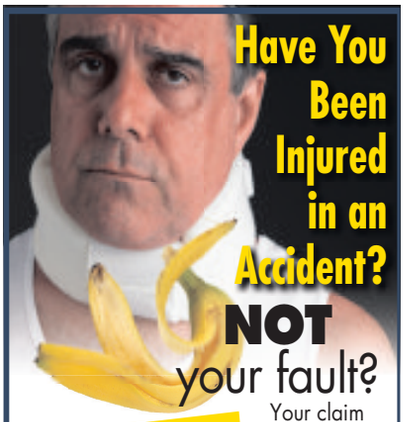

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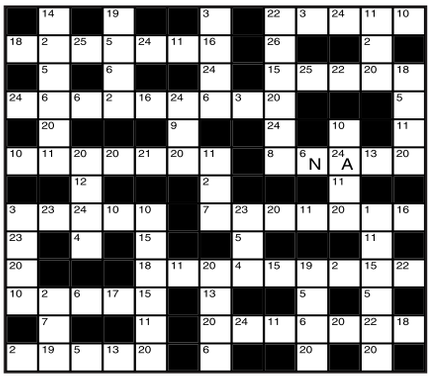
Puzzler

Brain Gym No.255

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

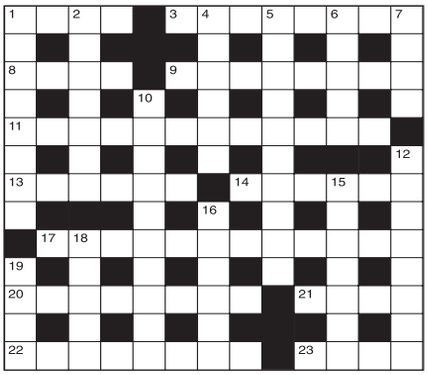


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 K	2 L	3 D	4 R	5 B	6 A	7 C	8 P	9 E	10 G	11 V	12 H	13 W
14 F	15 S	16 Z	17 J	18 U	19 Y	20 X	21 M	22 N	23 O	24 Q	25 I	26 T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Loud part of the play - and that's the truth (4)
3. Aromatic plant to sell in real variety (8)
8. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation - to control the rate of clothing? (12)
13. Three will show approval (6)
14. Provide with physical cover (6)
17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8,4,8)
20. Newspapers, maybe, for travelling attendants (8)
21. Box for a piece of the rigging (4)
22. Not allowing the current deposit to mount up (8)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit - jumpers would be out of place (4-4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This study could provide a gloomy tone (10)
6. Crude monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much betting? (10)
12. Edward takes in anaesthetic, strictly controlled in movement (8)
15. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer's a lemon! (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bias (8)
8. Eminence (4)
9. Flag (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
13. Awning (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Begin (8)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (8)
15. Advance (7)
16. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Sudoku

9	6					7		5
			6	1				3
3		4			5			
		3			2	5	9	7
	7			9				
5	4	9	7			3		
			9			2		6
		6		3	8			
2			4				7	9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8
8	5	7	1	4	2	9	3	6
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	6	9
9	1	8	2	6	7	3	4	5
6	3	2	4	9	5	1	8	7
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
2	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shipwrights; 9 Netball; 10 Farce; 11 Onset; 12 Siskins; 13 Mobbed; 15 Albino; 18 Trouble; 20 Oiler; 22 Okapi; 23 Stood up; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Hates; 3 Piastre; 4 Relish; 5 Gifts; 6 Termini; 7 Information; 8 Seismograph; 14 Brocade; 16 Look-out; 17 Teaser; 19 Bride; 21 Laden. QUICK - Across: 1 Thoughtless; 9 Dungeon; 10 Merge; 11 Lodge; 12 Settled; 13 Stress; 15 Reason; 18 Enclose; 20 Enter; 22 Crime; 23 Unusual; 24 Investments. Down: 2 Honed; 3 Useless; 4 Honest; 5 Limit; 6 Strolls; 7 Adolescence; 8 Leading role; 14 Ruction; 16 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.

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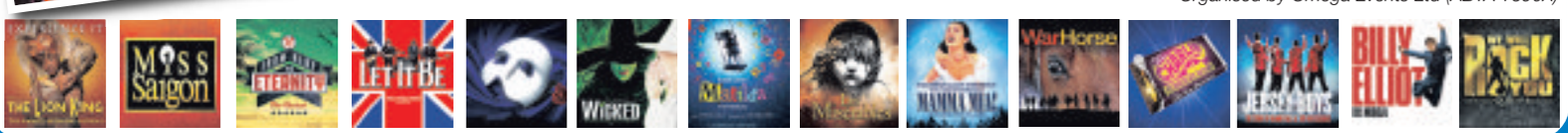

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- Surprisingly spacious semi-detached home • Three bedrooms
- Living room plus dining area • Fitted kitchen • Upstairs bathroom
- Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- Quiet position • Private rear garden • Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £99,950

WALLOWS WOOD
THE STRAITS
- Spacious semi-detached home well presented throughout
- Three bedrooms • Lounge, dining room, office, kitchen, laundrette
- Stylish bathroom • Low maintenance rear garden • Central heating
- Double glazing • Off road parking Energy Rating: D

£149,995

LABURNUM ROAD
KINGSWINFORD
- Modern ground floor flat • Lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom
- uPVC double glazing • Heating • Quiet position • No upward chain
- Ideal first time buy or investment • Interior viewing recommended

Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £68,000

RAINHAM CLOSE
FOXYARDS, TIPTON
- Spacious semi-detached home with three bedrooms
- VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED • 21ft Lounge diner
- Office/study • 16ft Breakfast kitchen • Central heating
- Double glazing • No upward chain Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £139,950

BOSWORTH CLOSE
WOODSETTON
- Detached family residence • Extremely well presented throughout
- Four bedrooms • 21ft Living room • Ground floor cloaks room
- Central heating • Double glazing • Garage • Off road parking
- Popular location • VIEWING RECOMMENDED Energy Rating: D

£199,950

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£725 pcm*
Detached Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage

TIPTON NEW

STELLA ROAD
£650 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Downstairs Cloakroom, Three Large Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Single Banbury Storage Unit, Gardens to Front, Side & Rear

BRIERLEY HILL NEW

FOXDALE DRIVE
£475 pcm*
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Front & Side Gardens, Off Road Parking, Available Mid Jan

AMBLECOTE NEW

KING WILLIAM STREET
£595 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

STOURBRIDGE NEW

BAGLEYS ROAD
£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Furnished

WALL HEATH NEW

ENVILLE ROAD
£425 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD NEW

KINGSWOOD ROAD
£695 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three DOUBLE Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage

KINGSWINFORD NEW

BARNETT LANE
£450 pcm*
Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, No Pets

PENSNETT NEW

PRIMROSE GARDENS
£545 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

GORNAL

NEW STREET
£525 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

KINGSWINFORD

MARKET STREET
£600 pcm*
First Floor & Second Floor Office Space, Busy High Street Location, Newly Refurbished, Toilet & Kitchen Facilities, Double Glazed Windows , 5 BT Lines Present, Outdoor sitting area, Rear Access Entrance from Somerfield Car Park.

WALL HEATH

HIGH STREET
£575 pcm*
Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

GREENFIELDS ROAD
£650 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

HIGH VIEW DRIVE
£750 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
£410 pcm*
Cluster Style Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

WOODSETTON

SEDGLEY ROAD
£550 pcm*
Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

NETHERTON

PARK ROAD
£360 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

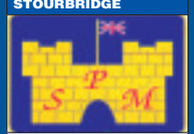
PENSNETT

HEYDON ROAD
£595 pcm*
4 New Semi-Detached Houses, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 1/2 cars.

GORNAL

HARVEST CLOSE
£560 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

STOURBRIDGE



AUDNAM
£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Ground Floor Entry, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

KEYES DRIVE
£425 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET
£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

LARCH ROAD
£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

(*Administration/application fees will apply)

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SEDGLEY

Gospel End Road
* An excellent size DETACHED home
* Sought after Gospel End address
* Walking distance to Sedgley village
* Flexible living space
* Open plan and recently fitted kitchen * Utility room, play room/sitting room
* FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites
* Driveway parking for several cars
* Part garage and private rear garden
* This is an ideal family home
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £260,950

SEDGLEY

Tipton Road
* An excellent size family home
* In walking distance to Sedgley
* Lounge & dining room
* Good size kitchen
* FOUR bedrooms
* Family size rear garden
* Garage & off road parking
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £230,950

COSELEY

Summerhill Road
* A DETACHED bungalow
* Enhanced and upgraded throughout
* Breakfast Kitchen * Large Conservatory
* Lounge & Dining Room
* One bedrooms (can be converted back into a two bedroom)
* Delightful & Landscaped gardens
* Secure parking through electronic gates
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £225,950

KINGSWINFORD

Swinforge Way
* Four bed detached, village location
* Delightful canal side setting
* Lounge * Dining room
* Breakfast kitchen
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Gas central heating
* Garage, driveway parking
* PART EX CONSIDERED
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £225,000

SEDGLEY

Ettymore Road
* A most impressive detached residence.
* In walking distance to Sedgley Village
* Spacious accommodation
* Two reception rooms
* Breakfast kitchen
* Four double bedrooms
* No Upward Chain
* Viewing essential
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,950

COSELEY

Bridgewater Drive
* A FOUR bedroom detached
* Extended & enhanced
* Dining & breakfast kitchen
* Contemporary bathroom
* Utility room & guest w.c.
* Garage & off road parking
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950

COSELEY

Clifton Street
* A traditional DETACHED home
* Open plan lounge/dining room
* Modern Kitchen
* Three good size bedrooms
* An excellent size bathroom
* Rear gardens & garage
* Off road parking for 2/3 cars
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

LOWER GORNAL

Wenrish Close
* A good size DETACHED property
* In an enviable cul-de-sac location
* An open plan lounge and dining kitchen
* THREE bedrooms, en-suite shower room
* Family bathroom
* UPVC double glazed windows
* Driveway with off road parking
* A good size rear garden and garage
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

DUDLEY

Attingham Drive
* A Modern TOWN HOUSE
* Set over three storey's
* Contemporary & spacious
* Lounge & dining Kitchen
* FOUR double bedrooms
* Two En-suites & family bathroom
* Allocated parking for 2/3 cars
* Rear garden set over 2 tiers
* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £168,950

COSELEY

Clifton Street
* A PERIOD three storey semi-detached
* Fully modernised and enhanced
* Lounge and conservatory
* Dining kitchen
* Three double bedrooms
* Double glazed 'Sash' windows
* A large & well maintained rear garden
* Views over Coseley allotments.
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £152,500

UPPER GORNAL

Ripley Grove
* SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED
* A modern three bed end townhouse
* Built 5 years ago , NHBC warranty
* Lounge, open plan dining kitchen
* Downstairs cloakroom
* En-suite to master bedroom
* Driveway parking
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £146,950

COSELEY

Clifton Street
* A modern detached bungalow
* Private access road off Clifton St
* Well maintained accommodation
* Two bedrooms & Wet Room
* Lounge and conservatory
* Low maintenance garden
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,500

COSELEY

Roselind Avenue
A traditional style semi-detached
On the popular Bramford Estate
Lounge & Dining Room
Modern breakfast Kitchen
Three bedrooms
Garage and drive
Rear garden
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - D

PRICE £138,950

TIPTON

REDUCED

Birnham Close
* A well presented semi-detached
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* Spacious accommodation
* Extended lounge / dining
* Modern Kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Garage & Off road parking
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £132,500

COSELEY

REDUCED

George Road
* A 'Chalet' style semi-detached property
* Upgraded & enhanced accommodation
* Modern dining kitchen
* Conservatory
* Three bedrooms
* Garage with utility facilities
* Gas central heating
* Rear garden
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £132,500

COSELEY

Keats Drive
* A Modern semi-detached property
* Offering spacious accommodation
* Lounge and through dining room
* Three bedrooms & Bathroom
* Private rear garden with sunny aspect
* Driveway and garage
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

COSELEY

Church Road
* A Traditional terrace property
* Deceptively spacious
* An open plan modern dining kitchen
* Lounge & Sitting Room
* Two good size bedrooms
* Loft Room (being used as a bedroom)
* Good size rear garden
* Driveway with parking for 2 cars
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,500

SEDGLEY

Tipton Street
* A traditional terrace property
* In walking distance into Sedgley Centre
* Dining room, Lounge
* Kitchen & Utility room
* THREE bedrooms
* Good size rear garden
* An ideal First time buy
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £123,950

COSELEY

The Castings
* Modern end of town house style property
* Well maintained and contemporary
* An open plan style breakfast kitchen
* Conservatory & downstairs w.c.
* Two good size bedrooms
* Situated on a larger corner plot
* Good size rear gardens
* Two allocated parking spaces
* An ideal starter home
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,950

COSELEY

Chad Road
* A GOOD SIZE semi-detached home
* Excellent location for good local schools
* Lounge & open plan dining kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Garage & Driveway parking
* Ideal for first time buyers
* Viewing highly recommended
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

COSELEY

Corfe Road
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* A traditional semi-detached
* Lounge & Dining room
* Extended kitchen * Verandah
* Three bedrooms
* Some cosmetic updating required
* Upvc double glazing
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £111,950

SEDGLEY

Castle Street
* A DECEPTIVELY spacious terrace
* In walking distance to Sedgley Village
* Upgraded and refurbished throughout
* Three good size bedrooms
* Lounge & Dining Room
* Kitchen Extension
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £111,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Dunsmilla Road
* Ideal property for a 1ST time buyer
* Well presented traditional style semi
* Lounge to the front.
* Rear sitting room & dining area
* Three good sized bedrooms
* Most delightful rear gardens
* Off road parking
* EPC Rating - E

PRICE £105,950

DUDLEY

Limes Road
* A modern semi-detached property
* Conveniently situated for Dudley Town Centre
* Kitchen & good size lounge
* Two bedrooms & bathroom
* Off road parking for 4 cars
* Low maintenance rear garden
* Ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

£95,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Close
* A generously sized semi-detached
* A quiet cul-de-sac location
* In need of cosmetic updating
* Kitchen and separate dining room
* Outhouse with 2 stores and w.c.
* THREE good size bedrooms
* An excellent size private rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,500

COSELEY

REDUCED

Rainbow Street
* A semi detached bungalow
* Ideal buy-to-let investment
* Current rental income being £6,825 pa
* Lounge & galley kitchen
* Two bedrooms
* Recently installed central heating
* Recently re-wired & re-plastered
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £92,500

PARKHOUSE GARDENS, LOWER

Park Road
* A BRAND NEW development
* 5 Bungalows remaining
* High standard and contemporary
* OPEN PLAN style living space
* Luxury breakfast kitchen
* ALLOCATED PARKING
* Rear garden with sunny aspect
* Ideal for independent individuals
* EPC Rating - B

£89,950

UPPER GORNAL

Aldenwood Rise
* A unique town house style property
* In a quiet cul-de-sac location
* Deceptively spacious
* Dining kitchen and Lounge
* Two bedrooms and bathroom
* Upvc double glazed
* In need of cosmetic updating
* Ideal buy-to-let or first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

£81,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Dovedale Road
* A WELL presented Maisonette
* In a popular residential location
* TWO bedrooms
* Kitchen * Lounge
* An ideal first time buy or investment
* Viewing is highly recommended
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £76,950

TIPTON

Thunderbolt Way
* A modern and stylish apartment
* With secure entry system
* Allocated parking
* Open plan style living
* One double bedroom
* Shower room
* An ideal first time buy or investment
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £52,950

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Get Help to Buy a stunning apartment in Dudley

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Get Help to Buy a fantastic 3 bedroom home in Wolverhampton

- Just 3 homes remain on the current phase - don't miss out!
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- Good local schools

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Help to Buy a 2 bed Canterbury apartment from **£92,995**

You	5% Deposit £4,650
Help to Buy	20% Loan £18,599
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or visit taylorwimpey.co.uk/woodallgrange

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Tipton
Station Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

An immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, conservatory, en-suite shower to master bedroom, driveway, garage, garden to the rear and solar powered heating providing an additional income

£144,950

Smestow
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A rare opportunity to purchase agricultural land located in the village of Smestow. The land is being sold with vacant possession by private treaty. The total land area extends approximately 18.7 acres however there is an option to purchase individual lots with enclosed paddocks and water supply. These can be seen listed separately. Please contact the selling agent for any further information

£189,000

Dudley
Cromwell Drive

A recently improved three bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs white bathroom suite, three good size bedrooms, rear garden and off road parking. No upward chain!

£114,950

TIVIDALE
Elm Terrace

A two bedroom semi detached house which is immaculate throughout and briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs shower room, driveway and a good sized garden to the rear

£110,000 o/o

DUDLEY
Perry Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

A very well presented two bedroom modern mid terraced house with lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, gardens to the front and allocated parking.

£89,950

DUDLEY
St Catherines Close

A three bedroom semi detached house located in this poplar area with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, kitchen with dining area, upstairs bathroom, good sized garden to the rear, driveway to the front.

o/o £105,500

Dudley
Scotts Green Close

A recently modernised three bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, utility, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage

£149,950 o/o

DUDLEY
Holly Road

A three bedroom semi detached property with a beautiful conservatory. Briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, downstairs bathroom, upstairs wc, rear garden and off road parking.

£94,950

DUDLEY
Five Ways Court

An immaculately presented two bedroom, two bathroom modern first floor apartment. The lounge having high ceilings and far reaching views. It is situated on a secure gated development.The property briefly comprises reception hall, open plan lounge with modern fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and a family bathroom. The property is sold on a 50% share basis

£49,950

TIPTON
Evans Close

A much improved and extended semi detached house with hallway, lounge with dining area, a converted garage which could be used as a dining room / play room, extended kitchen, side verandah, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms, a low maintenance garden to the rear and a double driveway to the front. Viewing is highly recommended.

£124,950

Tividale
Pine Road

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, sun room, bathroom, rear garden,off road parking. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of this property

£114,950

DUDLEY
Buffery Road

A spacious and well presented three bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining area, modern fitted kitchen, driveway, garage and garden to the rear

£169,950

LOWER GORNAL
Five ways Court

A modern three storey, three bedroom mid terraced house available on a 50% shared ownership basis with hallway, lounge, downstairs wc, secure entry system with allocated parking and garden to the rear

£69,950

Lower Gornal
Holloway Street

An impressive family home, this FOUR BEDROOM house enjoys all the space available. A quality kitchen with karndean flooring and dining/family areas opens out onto the rear garden, as does the bay fronted sitting room. Downstairs also features a utility room and WC. Three double bedrooms, including master bedroom with en suite shower room and beautiful fitted mirrored wardrobes, a single bedroom and a family bathroom with separate shower are located upstairs. The rear garden has a paved area and access to the garage and a gate leading to the front of the property.

£249,950

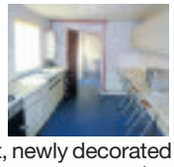
TIPTON
Spring Meadow

A five bedroom link detached house with hallway, large lounge with dining area, conservatory, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, ensuite to master bedroom, garden to the rear, parking to the side and garage.

£159,995

Dudley
Brooke Street

TO LET



A ground floor flat, newly decorated having one bedroom, one reception room, newly fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC, central heating and double glazing. Unfurnished, no DSS

£300PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Bean Road

TO LET

A ground floor, one bed flat with double glazing and electric panel heaters. Having a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, shower/WC. Part furnished, available now for long term.

£350 PCM + Fee's

STOURBRIDGE
Hemplands Road

TO LET

An unfurnished, one bed ground floor flat, clean and tidy, having a lounge, bedroom, bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen, storage heating, double glazing. Small patio/garden to rear. Walking distance from Stourbridge town centre.

£395 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Priory Street

TO LET

A modern ground floor two bed flat in Dudley town centre, excellent location for local amenities. Having a kitchen/lounge (open plan) two bedrooms, bathroom. Unfurnished, available now. Dss considered with guarantor

£425 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Windmill End

NEW INSTRUCTION

A ground floor, two bed apartment in a block of flats. Open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, bathroom/WC and two bedrooms off. Unfurnished, available now for long term. Dudley Bond Scheme applicants will be considered.

£450 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Kennedy Crescent

NEW INSTRUCTION

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment with double glazing, having a good sized lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a garden to the rear. Available now to view for long term. No pets, no DSS

£465 PCM + Fee's

TIPTON
Middle Meadow

TO LET

A one bedroom second floor apartment. Lounge, fitted kitchen, double glazing and central heating. Allocated parking and secure entry. Available to view now.

£475 PCM + Fee's

Dudley
Queens Hall

TO LET

A modern ground floor two bed flat, within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Having storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen/lounge (open plan), two good sized bedrooms, en-suite shower/WC to main bedroom and separate bathroom/WC.

£495 PCM + Fee's

TIPTON
Ferguson Drive

TO LET

A modern, two bed apartment with double glazing and electric storage heating, open plan living with fitted kitchen and dining area, lounge area, two good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Intercom for secure access, allocated parking, very close to local train station with good access to Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton. Unfurnished, available for viewing. No Dss. No pets

£495 + Fees

DUDLEY
Beckensall Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

Two bed semi-detached property within walking distance to the town centre. Central heating and double glazing, fitted kitchen/Diner, lounge, house bathroom/WC upstairs. Garden to the rear, off-road parking space to the front. Unfurnished. No DSS.

£510 PCM + Fee's

TIVIDALE
Fairway Avenue

NEW INSTRUCTION

A two bed semi detached property with off road parking to the front, private rear garden, double glazing and central heating, two good sized reception rooms and a fitted kitchen downstairs bathroom/WC. Unfurnished. Pets considered.

£525 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Pages Croft

TO LET

A modern two bedroom top floor apartment on popular Priory Park development. Having lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms, bathroom. Double glazing, allocated parking. Available to view now. No DSS

£535 PCM + Fee's

TIVIDALE
Asquith Drive

TO LET

A modern, furnished, 2 bedroomed semi-detached property. Having two parking spaces, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge-diner to rear with access to garden, downstairs WC. Upstairs with house bathroom. No DSS, no pets

£550 PCM + Vat

BILSTON
Woodcross Street

TO LET

Three bedroom terrace house. Lounge, large fitted kitchen including appliances with dining area. Conservatory with downstairs shower room & wc. Enclosed rear garden with driveway to the front. Dss considered with guarantor.

£550 PCM + Fee's

Dudley
Hawkesley Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A very well presented 3 bed semi-detached house in a cul-de-sac location. New fitted dining kitchen, lounge, upstairs has a modern bathroom with shower over the bath. Off road parking to the front, patio and pleasant garden to the rear with a garden shed. Unfurnished. Dss considered with guarantor.

£555 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Ash Grove

NEW INSTRUCTION

A mid terraced three bed house having a through lounge/diner, with fitted kitchen. Three good sized bedrooms and house Shower/WC (Wet room) There is a stair lift fitted at the property. Paved garden to front and rear, sheds to rear. Unfurnished.

£570 PCM + Fee's

DUDLEY
Brelades Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

A Beautifully presented two bedroom house in cul-de-sac location. Lounge, modern fitted Kitchen with appliances included. Central heating. Driveway to the front and enclosed garden to the rear. NO DSS.

£575 PCM + Fee's

WORDSLEY
Manor Road

TO LET

A mid terraced, three bed house with double glazing and central heating, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms - master with en-suite, bathroom with shower. Unfurnished, no DSS, no pets.

£575 PCM + Fee's

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DUDLEY

CLAUGHTON ROAD

●EPC Rating D●A Four Bedroom Semi Detached Property●Bedroom Four Leads From Bedroom Three●Two Reception Rooms●Breakfast Room●Kitchen●No Chain

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

LAVENDER ROAD

●EPC Rating D●End Terraced Residence●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Ground Floor Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden●Drive

£80,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

BRINDLEFIELDS WAY

●EPC - D●Modern Mid Townhouse●Two Bedrooms●Rear Lounge●Updated Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Parking

£90,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

PRIORY ROAD

●EPC Rating D●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage●No Chain

£110,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

THE STRAITS, LOWER GOR-

EATON CRESCENT

●EPC Rating D●An Improved & Well Presented Four Double Bedroom Detached●Through Lounge/ Dining Room●Refitted Breakfast Kitchen●UPVC Double Glazed & Brick Conservatory●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Laundry & Garage●Excellant

£269,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

DIBDALE ROAD

●A Bay Fronted Semi Detached ●Three Bedrooms ●Lounge ●Fitting Dining Kitchen ●Attic Room Having Pull Down Ladder ●Gas Central Heating System ●Double Glazing Where Staed ●Extensive Rear Garden ●Driveway ●Viewing Recommended

£135,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

BRIERLEY HILL

BROMLEY

●EPC Rating D●End Townhouse●Two Bedrooms●Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom●Drive●No Chain

£75,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

OAKLEY AVENUE

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Semi●Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Block Paved Drive

£135,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

HOLLY RD

●EPC Rating E●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Kitchen / Dining Room●Conservatory●Bathroom●Cloakroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden●Drive

£94,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

WARRENS HALL ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Ground Floor Extended Utility Room & Cloakroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage●Block Paved Drive

£124,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

DARBY END ROAD

●EPC Rating D●Three Bedroom Improved Semi Detached●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Double Glazing Where Stated,Gas Central Heating System●Garage●Viewing Recommended

£125,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

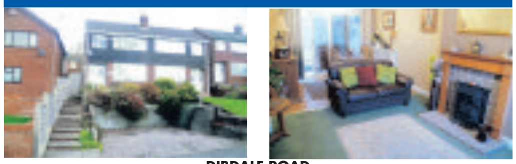
TIPTON

KEELINGE STREET

●EPC Rating D●Two Bedroom Mid Townhouse●Lounge●Kitchen●Rear Garden●No Chain

£59,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY



DIBDALE ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Through Lounge/Dining Room●Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage En Bloc●Enclosed Rear Garden>Viewing Recommended

£125,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY

DUDLEY ROAD

●EPC Rating D●A Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Mature Rear Garden●Drive

£160,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

MILKING BANK

HASTINGS COURT

●EPC Rating E●An Extended Detached Property●Five Bedrooms●Lounge●Dining Room Opening Into Conservatory●Ground Floor Cloakroom, Utility Room & Kitchen Having Integrated Appliances●Principal Bedroom Having En-Suite●Double Glazing Where

£235,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

HOLLY HALL

BROMFORD ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●Semi Detached Property ●Three Bedrooms●Two Living Rooms●Kitchen●Bathroom ●Double Glazing Where Stated●Rear Garden●Driveway Parking

£102,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

LANGSTONE RD

●EPC Rating D●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen●Ground Floor Wet Room●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Drive●No Chain

£130,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

COSELEY

KENELM ROAD

●EPC - E●An Extended Bay Fronted Semi●Three Bedrooms●Extended Kitchen●Lounge/Dining Room●Rear Garden●Drive

£90,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

BROOM RD

EPC Rating E●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Kitchen●Ground Floor Bathroom●Rear Garden

£74,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

GORNAL WOOD

HIMLEY ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●A Considerably Improved Bay Fronted Detached Property●Four Bedrooms●Principal Bedroom Having Refitted En-Suite Bathroom & French Doors●Fantastic Open Plan Lounge Having Bi-Fold Doors To Conservatory●Refitted House

£265,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

ATTINGHAM DRIVE

●EPC Rating Awaited●Modern Ground Floor Apartment●Two Bedrooms & En-Suite To Bedroom One●Open Plan Lounge/Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Allocated Parking

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

KINGSWINFORD ROAD

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Semi●Two Living Rooms●Kitchen●Bathroom●Garage●Drive●Available Early Jan

£550 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GRENVILLE ROAD

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Semi●Located On The Popular Russells Hall Development●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Drive●Available Late Mar

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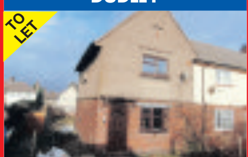
DUDLEY



ELM ROAD

●EPC - D●An Updated Three Bedroom End Terraced Residence●Family Bathroom●Lounge,Kitchen●Ground Floor Clooakroom●Driveway

£500 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON

COSFORD DRIVE

●EPC D●Good Presented Modern Townhouse●Two Good Size Bedrooms●Lounge & Fitted Kitchen●Low Maintenance Rear Garden●Ideally Located For Amenities●Available Now

£525 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

BONNEVILLE CLOSE

●EPC - B●Modern Two Bedroom Apartment●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Allocated Parking

£495 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached●Two Double Bedrooms●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing●Drive●Beautifully Presented

£475 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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Willenhall
Lakeside Close
- Three bed semi
- GCH and DG windows
- Bathroom with shower
- Dining Kitchen
- Garage
- Energy Rating - D
- Available February
- Tipton office

£575pcm

Tipton
Toll End Road
- Two bed first floor aprt
- GCH and DG
- Lounge with juliette balcony
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Communal garden with parking
- Energy Rating - B
- Great Brige office

£495pcm

Tipton
Scott Street
- Two bed mid terraced house
- One reception room
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- DG throughout
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - C
- 0121 520 2255 (option 2)

£475pcm

Tividale
Elm Terrace
- Two bed semi
- Unfurnished
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- DG and GCH
- Rear garden with shed
- Energy Rating - D
- 0121 520 2255

£425pcm

Tipton
Coburg Croft
- Three bed end terrace
- DG and GCH
- Downstairs WC
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- ORP
- Energy Rating - C

£575pcm

Walsall
Warren Place
- Traditional three bed town house style property
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Luxury bathroom with shower
- Pleasant front and rear gardens
- Bloxwich office
- Energy Rating - D

£550pcm

New Invention
Squires Grove
- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Modern fitted kitchen with appliances
- One en-suite
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully double glazed and central heated
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office

£525pcm

Tipton
Horseley Road
- Three bed semi
- Unfurnished
- GCH
- Double glazing
- Lounge with laminate flooring
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and electric shower
- Energy Rating - D
- Available immediately

£525pcm

Sedgley
North One Mews
- Two bed first floor apartment
- GCH
- DG
- Kitchen with fitted oven
- Master bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- En suite shower room
- Allocated car parking space
- Energy Rating - B

£525pcm

Hagley
Millpool Close
- Two bed groud floor apartment
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Garage and parking space
- Energy Rating - D
- Great Bridge office
- 0121 520 2255

£495pcm

Bilston
Horace Street
- Two bed mid terraced home
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- CH & DG
- Rear Garden
- Energy Rating - C
- Available immediately
- Call 01902 686868

£495pcm

Tipton
Scott Street
- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - TBC
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£475pcm

Tipton
Potters Brook
- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - B
- Tipton office

£475pcm

Brierley Hill
Commonside
- Two bed detached home
- Central heated accommodation
- Bathroom with shower
- Garden
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - F
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm

Tipton
Jonah Drive
- One bed ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Includes oven, hob, washer and dryer
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocaed parking
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office

£425pcm

Wolverhampton
Market Square
- First floor two bed apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fitted kitchen
- Economy seven heating throughout
- Bathroom with shower
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£425pcm

Willenhall
Bow Street
- Two bed mid terraced house
- Central heated and double glazed
- Bathroom with shower.
- Dining kitchen
- Energy Rating D
- Great Bridge office
- 0121 520 2255 (option 2)
- Available

£395pcm

Dudley
Fox Street
- One bed first floor flat
- Utility room with washer dryer and freezer
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen with appliances
- Double bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Bathroom with

£375pcm

Sedgley
Bilston Street
- Spacious one bed first floor maisonette
- Luxurious bathroom with shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Spacious lounge
- Parking available
- Energy Rating - G
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£350pcm

Great Bridge
Market Place
- Spacious one bed flat
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Fitted bathroom
- Close to motorway network
- Gas central heated
- Energy Rating - E
- Tipton office
- Available immediately

£350pcm

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STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

DUDLEY

Hastings Court, Milking Bank

An outstanding, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED detached FIVE BEDROOM family home set in favoured short cul-de-sac. Tremendous accommodation provides; traditional reception hall, elegant 17'5" lounge, dining room opening through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen with many integrated appliances, store, refitted utility, and reappointed cloakroom. Principal bedroom with extensive fitted units & reappointed shower room en suite, four additional bedrooms (two with lofty ceiling heights), upgraded bathroom with a white suite. Garage subdivided to form external store & inner "playroom or store". Block paved foregarden, neat sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £235,000

LOWER GORNAL

Himley Gardens

Enviably situated at head of cul-de-sac with tremendous distant views, and within walking distance of village, country park etc., a SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family home that has been TREMENDOUSLY UPGRADED in recent years, and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Outstanding accommodation includes; entrance hallway,L shape 16 ft through lounge, extended 20'2" dining room, extended/refitted kitchen with a fine range of "beech" effect units & various integrated appliances, understairs store, utility room, fitted cloakroom. FOUR BEDROOMS, recently reappointed bathroom with a white contemporary suite, separate toilet. Garage, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £225,000

KINGSWINFORD

Kingsley Road

BACKING ONTO ATTRACTIVE WOODLAND within this extremely desirable address, close to excellent schooling, this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME requires updating and improvement but provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL to enhance the GENEROUS accommodation, including TWO SEPARATE RECEPTION ROOMS and comprising: Reception Hall, well proportioned Lounge, separate Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. Gently elevated back beyond the front lawn/paved forecourt, together with DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and enjoying an ATTRACTIVE AND GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£189,995 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

BROCKMOOR

Leys Road

This substantially extended, conscientiously maintained, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides versatile living space which simply must be viewed to appreciate the size / standard of accommodation provided. The truly versatile property briefly comprises: spacious Lounge, Sitting / Dining Room, re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen with a fine range of units, splendid Conservatory addition, Guest WC, THREE GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Shower Room with white suite, lovely SECOND FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM with Ensuite, Driveway and neat REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£174,950

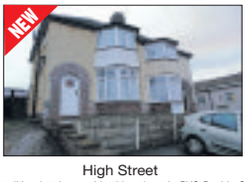
WORDSLEY

Ensall Drive

AN IMPROVED, NOW IMMACULATE, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME within this pleasant, popular, cul de sac address just off Marine Crescent, offering BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED / PRESENTED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: entrance hall, spacious & attractive lounge, superb beautifully appointed dining kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With lawned fore garden, DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a good sized, attractively laid out rear garden, which provides a pleasant level setting. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£154,950

PENSNETT



High Street

This traditional style, considerably enlarged uPVC Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM Semi Detached home provides versatile living space, and simply must be viewed to appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge with Bay, Dining Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Study, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Shower Room, Attic Bedroom Four, Double Width Driveway, Lengthy Garden, and Double Garage (in need of some repair) to rear. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£134,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Roach Close

This MODERN STYLE, majority uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom semi detached home is situated in a quiet cul de sac and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. The WELL PRESENTED property briefly comprises: entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, utility, splendid conservatory addition, two bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway providing ample parking, and a good size rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£116,950

NETHERTON

Baptist End Road

This conscientiously maintained traditional style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED home is well worthy of internal inspection, and may particularly appeal to both FIRST TIME BUYERS and young families like. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, stylish Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, separate WC, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, Driveway and REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£114,950

WORDSLEY

Whitethorn Road

Forming part of an established and sought after location, this ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED AND IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME is greatly enhanced by the DOUBLE WIDTH DRIVE to the fore and offers SPACIOUS and WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation, all of which is WELL APPOINTED throughout and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious full depth Lounge with Dining Area, fitted breakfast Kitchen with built-in appliances, Utility Room, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, attractively refitted Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is further complemented by a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN which large paved patio and lawn beyond. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£114,950

PENSNETT

Tiled House Lane

This IMMACULATELY PRESENTED, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi-detached home is situated in a quiet cul de sac, and is WELL WORTHY OF INTERNAL INSPECTION. The TASTEFULLY APPOINTED property briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish through lounge, RE-FITTED KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED APPLIANCES, shower room, three good bedrooms, carport, block paved driveway, and a low maintenance rear garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£112,950

RUSSELLS HALL

Minehead Road

This Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED Home is situated in a popular location, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Garage, Driveway and REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£104,950

NETHERTON

Park Road

This Victorian style, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROM MID TERRACE is situated in an established location, and may appeal to both FIRST TIME BUYERS and YOUNG FAMILIES alike. The property briefly comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Cellar, Ground Floor Shower Room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, Garden and Large Garage / Workshop to Rear. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£99,950

LOWER GORNAL

Brook Street

An EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED, gas centrally & uPVC double glazed intermediate terrace of character enviably situated within walking distance of the village. Superb accommodation includes entrance hallway, living room, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units with various integrated appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, recently reappointed & re-tiled bathroom with contemporary style white suite, neat garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £94,500

PENSNETT

Swan Street

This traditional style, part uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM Semi Detached Home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Guest WC, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and a good size REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£84,950

NETHERTON

Weavers Rise

This modern style, ONE BEDROOM Semi Detached Property would now ideally benefit from comprehensive modernisation / improvement, yet offers excellent potential. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, accommodation briefly comprises: Lounge, extended Dining Kitchen, DOUBLE BEDROOM, Bathroom, Driveway, and REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£64,950

SEDGLEY

Sandyfields Road

An imposing, fastidiously maintained, and tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence enviably situated in favoured district with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear, and within walking distance of so many amenities, schools, and country park. The ENLARGED accommodation provides; imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, through lounge, separate dining room, recently refitted 20 ft breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units/integrated appliances (and double French doors out to the garden); Garage is currently utilised as a store/utility room. FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (three with fitted units/wardrobes), reappointed tiled bathroom with a white traditional style suite. Magnificent lengthy landscaped rear garden with patio, and external lighting. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £365,000

SEDGLEY

Royston Way

A distinctive, particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow imaginatively designed to take full advantage of individual secluded plot circa 2004. Tremendously improved & presented in exemplary order throughout, the elegant accommodation includes imposing reception hall, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, utility room, 22ft living/dining room, principal bedroom with fitted units & bathroom en suite, further double bedroom & a separate shower/cloakroom. Extensive landscaped gardens, ample parking & planning consent (now lapsed) for construction of double garage. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £239,950

QUARRY BANK

Coppice Lane

This modern style, extended, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides versatile living space, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Lounge, splendid re-fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units / integrated appliances, L-shaped Dining / Sitting Room, Guest WC, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS (with En-Suite to Master), Re-fitted Bathroom with white suite, Garage, driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£219,950

WALL HEATH

Corrin Grove

Enjoying this exclusive cul de sac setting, just off Dudley Road and well placed for local shops / schools, this EXTENDED AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN, LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME affords ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED accommodation, enhanced by a DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY EXTENSION and comprising: reception hall, ground floor W.C., attractive lounge, LARGE CONSERVATORY, enlarged & beautifully refitted dining kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE with utility / shower room and an attractive low maintenance rear garden. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£204,950

SEDGLEY

Alderbrook Close, Northway

Enviably situated upon FINE CORNER PLOT (with potential), a superb, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached comprising entrance porch, L-shape through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'English Cream' finish units, outer porch & a further store. Three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), reappointed/re- tiled bathroom with white suite, lengthy 17'5" garage & further parking for larger vehicles/caravan, etc. sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £195,000

SEDGLEY

Coppice Close, Brownswall Estate

An exceptionally stylish, EXTENDED & ENLARGED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors in recent years set in favoured cul-de-sac. Accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room (formerly separate rooms) with patio doors & bay, EXTENDED & refitted kitchen with a fine range of "oak" finish units & slate tiled floor, lobby, laundry section, and sitting/tv/family room. To the first floor are THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, and a large reappointed bathroom with contemporary style white suite (chrome detailing). Gravelled foregarden, wide rear garden. EPC Rating: G.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £184,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

An impressive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated abutting onto 'The Beacon' with good distant views from the front. Enhanced accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen. Three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves), recently reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, garage, expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £164,950

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
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PENSNETT

Corbyns Close

Representing a rare opportunity to acquire a property in a quiet Cul-de-Sac, this Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED family home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and is well worthy of internal inspection. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom with white suite. Garage, Driveway and a lengthy Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£164,950

SEDGLEY

Brownswall Road

Attractive, tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in highly favoured district convenient for so many amenities/open fields/ country park, etc. Superb accommodation includes entrance porch, traditional reception hall, store, separate dining room, delightful lounge, enlarged/upgraded kitchen, three generous bedrooms, reappointed/enlarged bathroom with white traditionally style suite, lengthy 22'5" garage, secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN - A most conveniently situated, freehold, gas centrally & uPVC double glazed detached within immediate walking distance of day-to-day shops/doctors/bus routes/open fields/schools, etc & with distant views from rear. Enhanced accommodation includes L-shape reception hall, upgraded kitchen with a range of 'pearwood' effect units, transverse 18ft lounge with patio doors through to a brick/uPVC double glazed 17'5" CONSERVATORY. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

LOWER GORNAL

Summer Lane

Representing a truly rare opportunity, this Victorian style, double glazed (vast majority of majority of units), gas centrally heated end terrace with LARGE ATTACHED WORKSHOPS occupies a generous plot & lends itself to further development/ potential commercial premises (subject to planning permission). Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the property briefly comprises lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two first floor double bedrooms. Outside: two large workshops (one with inspection pit), attached office, lengthy driveway, garden area. EPC Rating: E.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

NETHERTON

Bowling Green Road

This traditional style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME provides versatile living space and is situated in an established residential location. The surprisingly spacious accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, welcoming Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen with a range of units, Guest WC, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Garage, Driveway, and a lengthy Rear Garden. Personal inspection is strongly advised to fully appreciate the potential that this property has to offer. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£159,950

DUDLEY

Northgate Close,

A COMPARATIVELY SPACIOUS, particularly stylish, FOUR BEDROOM, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated intermediate townhouse at head of short cul de sac constructed by David Wilson Homes circa 2005 & covered by balance of NHBC guarantee. Personal inspection vital to appreciate quality/flexibility of the accommodation. To the ground, 16'5" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, store, fourth bedroom & a utility room. To the first floor, L-shape lounge/dining room & a 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances. To the second floor, three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite) & house bathroom with white suite, GARAGE, garden with patio and distant views. EPC Rating:C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,000

COSELEY

NEW PRICE

Mason Street

A highly individual, PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached of character (believed to be one of the oldest houses in the neighbourhood) offering tremendous further potential. Accommodation includes; imposing reception hall (18' deep), fitted cloakroom, spacious 21'6" lounge, 21' dining kitchen with uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond. FOUR BEDROOMS, separate toilet, bathroom. Potential car port space, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £159,950, NOW £152,000

COSELEY

Lansdowne Close, Bramford Estate

An attractive, significantly enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated at head of relatively quiet cul de sac with appreciably LARGER THAN AVERAGE GARDEN. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge with feature 'living flame' fireplace, dining room leading into a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. enhanced kitchen with tiled utility room beyond. Three generous bedrooms, tiled bathroom, garage, lengthy secluded/sheltererd rear garden with patio & summerhouse. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £150,000

DUDLEY

The Shrubbery

An exceptionally stylish & comparatively spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed FORMER SHOWHOME presented in exemplary order throughout with enhanced specification. Accommodation provides entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall, cloaks cupboard, utility room, bedroom 3, shower room & an integral garage (NB: used as showhome office with dry lined/plaster skimmed walls, additional sockets, strip lights & telephone points - further potential). To the first floor is a large 18'8" max living/dining room & a well equipped L-shape 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & many integrated appliances. To the second floor, principal bedroom 1 with wardrobe & bathroom en suite & double bedroom 2 with wardrobe & shower room en suite. Secluded rear garden, two car parking to front. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Madison Avenue

This most impressive, three storey, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE / FOUR BEDROOM End Townhouse is conveniently situated for the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The versatile property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Guest WC, Dining Kitchen, Dining Room / Bedroom Four to Ground Floor, Lounge, Bathroom Bedroom Three to First Floor, BEDROOMS ONE AND TWO (with En-suite to Master) to Second Floor, allocated Parking Space, and Rear Garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£149,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

OFFERS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL & occupying a fine corner plot in popular/ convenient neighbourhood, a gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens & BRICK GARAGE to side. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950

SEDGLEY

Bath Street

An EXTENDED, modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities. The accommodation includes recessed porch, reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with double opening doors out to the decking, extended refitted kitchen with an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £137,950

COSELEY

Chad Road, Bramford Estate

An absolutely outstanding, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated (new combi boiler) semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent months to an exemplary specification. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, delightful lounge with bay, pantry, separate dining room, refitted kitchen. Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), upgraded bathroom, garage, neat garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

UPPER GORNAL

Harvest Close

An exceptional, ENLARGED, comprehensively modernised & upgraded, Freehold, gas centrally & uPVC double glazed semi detached presented in exemplary order throughout. Tremendous accommodation includes; lounge, refitted/enlarged dining room with a fine range of units, various integrated appliances & double doors through to a transverse uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, Inner "office". Two double bedrooms, reappointed/retilled bathroom with white suite. Secure garage with automated folding doors. Block paved foregarden, "low maintenance" rear garden with various fruit trees. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

SEDGLEY

Lomond Road, Northway

A gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' excellent situated in relatively quiet 'backwater' convenient for so many amenities. The conscientiously maintained accommodation includes 18ft reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a range of 'light beech' effect units, integrated oven, hob & filter. Three generous bedrooms, upgraded shower room, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £120,000

UPPER GORNAL

Club Row

A quite exceptional, particularly stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years excellently situated with open to front & within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities. Superb accommodation provides lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'walnut' effect units, two bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with white suite, lengthy carport, neat rear garden. Personal inspection imperative. EPC Rating: D.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,950

LOWER GORNAL

Wealdstone Drive

A stylish exceptionally well presented and conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' conveniently situated in favoured district. Accommodation provides glazed entrance vestibule. store, lounge, upgrade breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, bathroom, neat gardens with TARMACADAM parking for two cars 'at the rear' . EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,500

COSELEY

Rounds Hill Road

A comprehensively modernised, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been 'transformed' by present vendor in recent years. Situated within reasonable distance of bus/rail transport routes & many other amenities, the stylish accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room (with double French doors out to garden), refitted kitchen with integrated appliances, two/three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, block paved foregarden (kerb dropped) & good size rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £103,950

PENSNETT

Commonside

This MODERN STYLE, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, two bedroom terraced home offers well presented accommodation, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. The property briefly comprises: lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, and rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£102,950

PENSNETT

Chapel Street

A WELL PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE with DRIVE/PARKING, within a popular location, enjoying a private rear aspect, offering a GOOD SIZED layout, comprising: Reception Hall, spacious lounge, full width dining kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, shower room and GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM. DRIVEWAY to the fore and a landscaped rear garden with store. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£79,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

BRIERLEY HILL

Cooper Avenue

This traditional style, majority uPVC Double Glazed, TWO BEDROOM Semi Detached property would now ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement / upgrading, yet offers EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Good Bedrooms, Bathroom and Rear Garden. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£74,950

DUDLEY

Edenbridge View, Milking Bank Area

50% SHARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. Enviably situated at head of cul de sac section, a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district within walking distance of so many amenities. Vendor's 50% share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental) with accommodation providing entrance hallway, lounge, transverse dining kitchen, store, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking to front & good sized sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: C.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £62,475 FOR 50% SHARE.

UPPER GORNAL

Pale Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Excellently situated within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities, a GROUND FLOOR flat that has been renovated to a fine specification as a personal inspection will confirm. There is an 'entry phone' security system and vendor advises works include certified rewire, some re-plastering, a fine standard of decor throughout together with gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. Accommodation includes reception hall, enlarged/refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units including oven, hob & filter, lounge, double bedroom, reappointed bathroom with white suite. Externally are two lockable storage areas, communal grounds. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £59,995

LOWER GORNAL

Fiveways Court

50% SHARE FOR SALE, a stylish, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed first floor flat with good distant views from the rear forming part of a gated development within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities & facilities. Vendor's share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental, 'entry phone' system to shared hallway/landing. The flat enjoys lofty ceiling heights and the accommodation includes lengthy reception hall, walk-in store, lounge (with double french doors), well equipped kitchen with a fine range of units, principal bedroom (with double opening french doors & a generous shower room en suite), further double bedroom & bathroom, shared grounds, allocated parking & further guest parking. EPC Rating: B. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £52,000 for vendors 50% share

COSELEY

Ettingshall Road

NOTICE OF OFFER
Property address: 25 Ettingshall Road, Coseley, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 9UL. (EPC rating E) We would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £80,000 Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the Agency of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Taylors Estate Agents, 2a Dudley Street, Sedgley, Dudley, DY3 1SB, Tel: 01902 880888, sedgley@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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Manson Drive, Cradley Heath

£205,000

A four bedroom modern detached house comprising ground floor lounge, conservatory, kitchen/diner and bathroom. Halesowen

Cradley Fields, Halesowen

£160,000

A detached bungalow to the market comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, garage and front, side and rear gardens. Halesowen

Meres Road, Halesowen

£110,000

Traditional semi detached house situated in an established residential area. Comprises lounge/diner and three bedrooms. Halesowen

High Avenue, Cradley Heath

£110,000

Traditional end terraced property with accommodation comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, veranda and three bedrooms. Halesowen

Brett Young Close, Halesowen

£100,000

Modern second floor apartment comprising open plan lounge/kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and family bathroom. Halesowen

Clement Road, Halesowen

£85,000

Extended traditional three bedroom terraced house for sale. The property benfits from two reception rooms.

Central Avenue, Rowley Regis

£85,000

This three bedroom, terraced property is situated in an established residential area. Benefits from front and rear gardens.Halesowen

Aqua Court, Rowley Regis

£75,000

Modern first floor apartment with accomodation comprising of open plan lounge/kitchen with balcony, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen

Scotts Green Close, Dudley

Offers Over£195,000

A well presented three bedroom detached bungalow briefly comprising, lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Also benefitting from garage.

St. James's Road, Dudley

Offers Over£170,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, gardens, driveway and garage.

Smith Street, Dudley

Offers Over£170,000

Link detached four bedroom property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, reception room, downstairs WC, family bathroom, garage and drive.

Priory Road, Dudley

Offers Over£160,000

Semi detached five bedroom property comprising lounge, extended reception two, dining room, kitchen and downstairs shower room.

Abbotsford Drive, Dudley

Offers Over£140,000

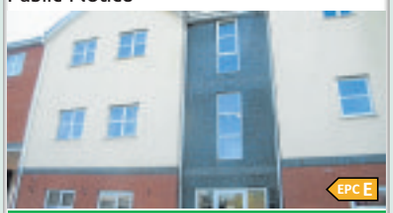
Three bedroom detached dormer bungalow includes lounge, kitchen, bathroom downstairs, upstairs WC, rear garden, garage and driveway.

Jonah Drive, Tipton

Offers Over£140,000

End terraced three bedroom property comprising two reception rooms, rear garden, allocated parking and garage.

Public Notice



£40,000

6, Brickhouse Lane South, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 7HJ. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £48,500. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Pine Road, Tividale

Offers Over£115,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

A workhorse not a 4x4 posing Chelsea tractor

Drive time with Graham Breeze

IF YOU are one of those looking to pose outside the school gate in a gleaming 4X4 the Land Rover Defender is not for you.

Because the defender is no show pony. In fact it's quite the opposite – the finest 4x4 workhorse you are likely to encounter.

There's very little finery about this model. In fact apart from a few cosmetic makeovers the Defender is just as it was decades ago when I cut my teeth as a budding driver on the farm tracks and fields near my home.

And that's been the strength of this British icon so I have to question why Land Rover are trying to strengthen its appeal with gimmicks such as seat design and sound systems.

The defender was born to be a workhorse and while I can understand the desire to personalise your vehicle with the contrasting roof colours that are now available I see no need for anything else.

Customers seeking a higher level of specification can now enhance their vehicle with three additional options and a choice of two new exterior body colours, Barolo Black and Havana.

Smart new, contrast roof colours can now be chosen against the majority of the Defender paint palette. In addition to the standard Fuji White, customers can now opt for Santorini Black, Indus Silver, Orkney Grey or Firenze Red.

If you want to impress at the school gates this is not for you

The Defender will easily cross a desert or climb a mountain

Land Rover has tweaked the dash

The Firenze Red can be chosen with the Santorini Black roof and the Baltic Blue with Indus Silver or simply retain their body colour.

Premium part leather seats which contour your body are available to the driver and front seat passenger, sporting the Land Rover logo on the backrest. But it's the EU5 2.2-litre diesel engine, which replaced the EU4 2.4-litre diesel in 2012, matching it for power, torque and fuel consumption that really counts when it comes to performance.

The engine produces 122PS@3,500rpm and torque of 360Nm@2,000rpm, giving a 0-60mph time of 14.7 seconds and a top speed of 90mph. CO2 emissions on the combined cycle are 266g/km. The GFT MT 82 six-speed gearbox has an excellent ratio spread, high top gear for cruising and enhanced low-speed crawl capability. The lower first gear offers low crawl speed making towing on-road and off-road much easier. The low-down engine torque also helps in-gear acceleration and the tall sixth gear ensures excellent real-world cruising, refinement and fuel economy. Land Rover has tweaked the dash and improved seating over the years but you could never describe the Defender as comfortable. It's an extremely hard drive, you still need "Popeye" size muscles when parking while front seats seem too close to the doors leaving little space for the driver's right arm yet there is a vast space between driver and passenger.

If you want to cross a desert, climb a mountain or negotiate difficult farmland the Defender is for you. If you want to pose and impress at the wheel of a 4X4 look elsewhere.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 - 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 - 3.3), Combined 32.5 - 78.5 (8.7 - 3.6). CO_2 emissions 201 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. **Terms and Conditions:** Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY

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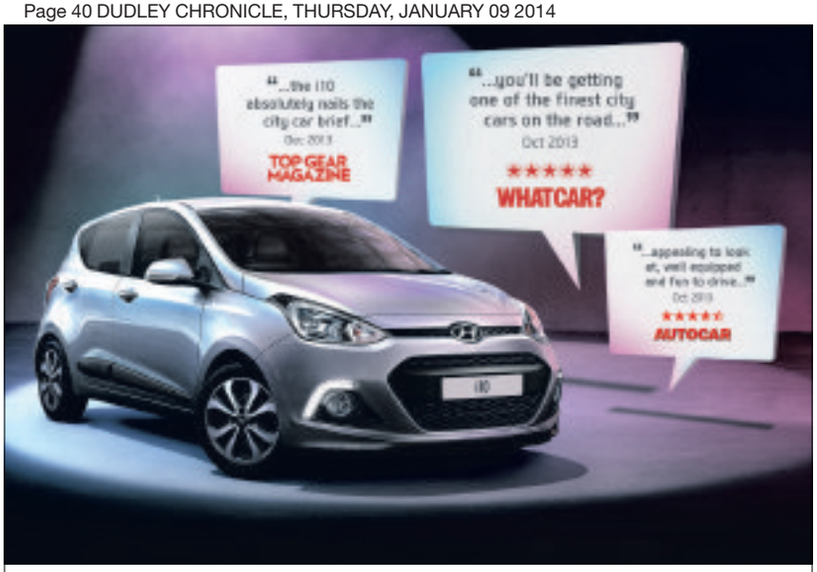

New Generation i10

If it had ears, they would be burning

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High praise indeed from the big names in the motoring press. And they're not the only ones being complimentary about the New Generation i10. Available from 30th January 2014, it won't be long before you can have your say.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3), CO2 Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.
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Motoring

The Skoda Octavia vRS has been voted 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' by lifestyle magazine FHM

Octavia vRS scoops award

THE Skoda Octavia vRS has been awarded the 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' gong by a leading men's lifestyle magazine.

Judges on FHM's panel were impressed by the hot Octavia's interior space, family-friendly practicality, impressive performance and striking style. Its price also struck a chord, with an entry figure of £22,990 on the road, putting it well below less spacious alternatives.

Chris Horrell, product marketing manager for Skoda UK said: "We are thrilled that the Octavia vRS hatch has been honoured in the FHM Car Awards.

"The sporty model offers the perfect solution for style-conscious drivers who require superior power delivery as well as all-round everyday practicality."

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO_2 159 g/km and for the Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban 30.7, Extra-Urban 49.5, Combined 40.3, CO_2 164 g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and a Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LS. Vehicles shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Cruze and Model Year 14 Orlando. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Prices correct at time of print. Valid for retail registrations only. At participating Dealers only. Offer ends 31st March 2014.

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6 Property

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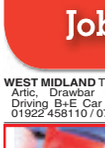

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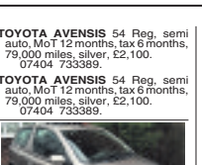

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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Four days departing June 20, October 10

PRICE FROM £249

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Two days departing March 29

PRICE FROM £109

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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in a four-star outer-London hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Pick of the week

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £719

The Sorrento peninsula and Bay of Naples form one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, rich in history, boasting breathtaking scenery and of course, first class cuisine, particularly seafood, pasta and wine.

On this holiday a choice of hotels is offered in and around the town of Sorrento. Tiny cobbled streets, quaint squares, and home to numerous bistros and restaurants along with lofty palm trees and flowers climbing crumbling walls, this is a typical Italian town and a perfect holiday base from where to explore the region.

Excursions include a boat trip to the beautiful island of Capri, home to the famous Blue Grotto; the city of Pompeii, whose state of preservation is astonishing; a visit to the still-active volcano of Vesivius, and a visit to Naples, home to the Archaeological Museum that houses some of the finest finds from the nearby excavations.

The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the meandering roads, admiring the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tours of Pompeii and Sorrento
- Visits to Naples and Ravello
- Cruise to Capri
- Visit to the volcano of Vesuvius
- Tour of the Amalfi coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Runners blow away the festive cobwebs

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club ushered the New Year in with a bang with their annual New Year's Day handicap race.

More than 50 runners braved the weather to blow away the cobwebs and try to run off some of the excesses of the festive season, mostly from the home club but also a handful from Tipton Harriers and Cobra Running Club.

But it was the marshals who had the worst of the deal, standing in the pouring rain to ensure the event went ahead without a hitch.

Runners were sent off at regular intervals over the 4.1 mile course with the slowest going first and the quickest last in the hope everyone would finish more or less together with prizes for the fastest man and woman and those finishing closest to their handicap mark.

Ben Foster of DK was fastest on the day finishing in 23.03 from Rob Meredith also of the home club in 24.01, claiming the nearest the handicap prize, and Tipton Harriers Joe Fairfax in 24.10 finished third.

In the ladies race Catherine Mayall of Cobra claimed first prize in 30.40 from DK's Carol Fisher in 31.39 and Catherine Quane in 32.17 with Alison Whitehouse taking the ladies nearest the handicap prize.

Boss hunt closing in for Baggies

ALBION have edged closer to finding their new head coach as defender Craig Dawson remained determined to stick around and impress the incoming boss.

The Baggies are still hopeful of appointing Steve Clarke's successor before Saturday's trip to Southampton with German Thomas Schaaf the latest possible contender.

And young centre-back Dawson has rejected the possibility of another loan move in favour of staying with the Baggies and battling for a first-team spot under the new boss.

The Baggies now appear to be in the final stages of their head coach hunt, although the identity of their No.1 candidate remains uncertain.

Nesbitt's brace adds to show of four-ce

Marvin Nisbett

Tipton 4 Kirby Muxloe 1

A BRACE by marksman Marvin Nisbett helped Tipton see off East Midlands outfit, Kirby Muxloe.

Tipton boss Ian Rowe welcomed back skipper Chris Waterhouse – who had missed the Boxing Day win over Tividale – and Mike Perks after two months out with injury.

Nisbett's early header from Lee Wherton's free kick went just over.

Kirby's fleet-footed striker Nathaniel McKintosh really should have given the visitors the lead three minutes later when he raced clear of Waterhouse and Joe Rogers only to see his shot tipped wide by James

Football

Pemberton. The turning point of the match arrived on 15 minutes when Kirby skipper Anthony Marriott inexplicably talked his way into a red card, leaving his team-mates to battle through the rest of the game with 10 men

To their credit they did battle, but the numerical advantage inevitably told.

On 22 minutes Perks almost marked his return with a goal as his header bounced off the bar and two minutes later the exact same spot as the muddy ball print left by Perks was hit by Danny Ashton's long-range shot.

But the deadlock was broken on 35 minutes when Connor Gater nodded home Lee Wherton's corner.

Tipton's slender first half lead was doubled within two minutes of the restart when Nisbett reacted quickest from Danny Ashton's deflected pass to slot home.

Four minutes later Nisbett doubled his own tally when he picked up the ball on the half way line, jinked past four players and fired past Elliot Shilliam.

The visitors grabbed one back almost immediately when Waterhouse and Gater got muddled up and allowed Brett Darby to loop in a shot over Pemberton's head.

But the three goal advantage was restored on 69 minutes when the impressive Jordan Archer fired home to make it 4-1.

With the game won, Tipton replaced Waterhouse, Perks and Graham Ashton with Paul Henley, Justin Nixon and debutant Mark Ganderton, a graduate of the Tipton Youth programme.

The final stages played out at mid-tempo but Joe Rogers could have grabbed a goal, his shot forcing a good save from Shilliam.

Khalsa is the victor in seesaw match-up

Sporting Khalsa 3 Cradley Town 2

KHALSA earned a victory over Cradley town in a seesaw last game of 2013.

Khalsa started the brighter of the sides and the first chance of the game fell to them when Liam Hughes failed to convert a one-to-one with the keeper who saved with his legs.

Sporting took the lead in the 10th minute when John Cordy's cross was tapped into the net by Hayden Williams.

Just nine minutes later Cradley levelled.

Then it was Cordy again who retook the lead for Khalsa when he rounded the keeper and shot hard and low into the net.

Not to be outdone on the half hour Cradley equalised with a header.

But Cordy was having none of it and put Khalsa ahead again from three yards out.

The second half started with Causeway pushing forward in numbers in search of another equaliser, but with no real penetration.

Khalsa looked dangerous on the break and both Mark Habbershaw and Liam Hughes had great chances to increase the lead but could not convert the chances.

Here come the girls as clubs warm to winners

THE normally male dominated world of amateur boxing is warming to girl power in Dudley after a trio of fighters brought home the honours in the ABA competitions of 2013.

Lions ABC's Victoria Morgan, Priory Park's Amie Smith and young Paige Goodyear, of Brooklands ABC, went into 2014 ranked the top of their class.

Goodyear won a 46kg title at just 12-years-old in December. Since turning 13, the High Arcal School student from Wren's Nest has already been boxing for over a year.

by Craig Birch

Her involvement in the schoolgirls competition brought home the first national title for the club, at the home gym of 35-year-old former pro Darren McDermott. The ex-British and Commonwealth title challenger and English champion from Woodsetton, who retired in 2010, admits he's warmed to the ladies' side of the sport.

He said: "Paige is my first national champion, which is absolutely fantastic for a club that is only into its third season. Hopefully, we can have a few more.

"She's been brilliant and if I had a gym full like her, I would be well happy. I am starting to think the girls give more than the boys, actually.

"I was a bit against it, at first, I have never trained a girl to box before but I give her all the credit in the world, she has converted me.

Priory Park trainer Paul Gough is planning to heavily invest his club's time in building up a female "squad" for future competitions, after Smith's success.

She took a senior title at 48kg in Class C, for fighters who have had none to five bouts, despite only making her unpaid debut on a club show in November.

Gough said: "Amy's looking forward to boxing on our club show next month and her winning a national title means exactly the same to the club as the lads' did.

"It makes no difference who it is, they have won it and put the hard work in to be ranked No.1 in the country."

It was second time lucky for Morgan, after she was beaten in the 71kg Class C final the previous year. She made no mistake in the same category this time.

Lions trainer John Shakespeare said: "Victoria has been with us for about three years now and bouts can be scarce, but she's getting better each year.

"You need a bit of grit to survive in any area of boxing ... and gritty fighters are the ones that keep coming back.

"To have our first female national champion means a lot to our club."

Champions all, from left Victoria Morgan, Amie Smith and Paige Goodyear have brought honours for their clubs

Move on in Hennessy saga – Bully

STEVE BULL has urged Wolves to put the Wayne Hennessey saga behind them and focus on promotion – as he branded Karl Henry "stupid" for getting involved.

Keeper Hennessey's refusal to play against Gillingham on Friday and subsequent apology have been aggravated by the tweet from ex-captain Henry attacking head coach Kenny Jackett's role in the controversy.

Henry, now at Championship promotion challengers QPR, accused Jackett of treating the 26-year-old keeper "like s***".

But legend Bully is anxious the club move on.

"Wayne was guilty of stupidity and probably a little bit of immaturity," said Bull.

"You have got to play for the club paying your wages..

"Wayne got that wrong, but it's good he has realised it and apologised."

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SPORT

Nice Nesbitt
Player's brace helps seal victory
Page 47

Girl power
Female boxers take the honours
Page 47

Sports Desk 01902 319531 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Late goal denies the victory for Glassboys

Stourbridge 1
Hitchin Town 1

GARY HACKETT'S men paid the price for not turning their large amount of possession into more goals in a dramatic finale where Hitchin grabbed a late equaliser.

The hosts controlled large parts of the match, but with only a one-goal lead for their endeavours there was always the risk the Hertfordshire side might bite back.

Ben Billingham and Ryan Rowe combined to set up Sean Geddes for a shot from just outside the right-hand side of the box which ran wide, but with 13 minutes played the Glassboys forged in-front in fine fashion.

Brown spread the ball out to Netan Sansara on the left and his precise cross picked out Benbow in the middle who directed a header beyond Bell to open the scoring.

Without a second goal to their credit, Stourbridge were always in for a nervy last few minutes and in the 89th minute they were undone when the ball was touched through for Wharton to accelerate and bear down on goal.

As he tried to round Coleman just outside the penalty area, he was body-checked by the keeper to leave the referee with no choice but to send him off.

Jamie Oliver took over between the sticks, but the sweetly struck low free-kick from Garry Jones gave him no chance.

Hard work for Saxons

Birmingham-Solihull 7
Stourbridge Saxons 19

AT half-time the Saxons looked as if they'd cruise to a bonus point victory at sticky Portway.

However, poor light, sin-binnings and multiple second half handling errors saw them clinging on to their lead rather than threaten to secure the bonus.

Second row Nile Dacres opened the scoring followed by flanker Eji Uzoigwe.

Then Stef Shillingford recorded the Saxons' second try. In the second half the Saxons' confidence started to wane. With the darkness making open play very difficult the Saxons struggled to string any phases together and the second half ended much as it had begun with a handling error.

Baggies limp out of Cup with a whimper

Albion 0 Crystal Palace 2

Football

AMID the uncertainty of a managerial vacuum and the worry of a struggling Premier League campaign, the Baggies had the chance to deliver some light relief in a competition that defines their history more than any other.

They tossed away the opportunity and exited at the first hurdle with barely more than a whimper.

While across the country the FA Cup threw up an encouraging number of charming stories, third-round day at The Hawthorns was a thoroughly depressing experience. A dismal game was won by the least poor of two below-par teams as the Baggies simply went through the motions and slumped out of the Cup in the most low-key fashion imaginable. It was a sad spectacle in a competition they have won on five occasions and contested in the final on five more. The FA Cup no longer holds its place at the pinnacle of the English game and cannot come close to competing with the Premier League for providing clubs with riches from media deals.

But for Albion, it has provided so many of the enduring images on which the fabric of the club has been built. On Saturday, as an ugly Palace side walked away with the most routine of victories, it became little more than an optional extra for a Baggies side lacking intensity and drive.

Caretaker boss Keith Downing will take his share of the flak for the team changes that mirrored so many of his top-flight colleagues up and down the land.

But if the selection of a below-strength XI set the tone for the afternoon, it was the men on the field who truly gave up their chance of an exciting Cup adventure tamely.

Downing was let down by the players – whom he entrusted with taking the Baggies into round four – with the slipshod defending that helped Palace bag their opening goal symptomatic of the mood of the day.

They might have led in the early stages when Zoltan Gera found space on the right from which to cross but Saido Berahino, who looked frustrated in a wide-left role, sent a tricky volley over the bar.

Albion made a little noise before half-time with Craig Dawson's header looping over the crossbar. And they briefly threatened to improve after the interval.

In injury time former Arsenal striker Marouane Chamakh scored a simple second goal with the final kick of the game.

NEW YEAR BRINGS NO CHEER FOR DK

DK 7 Otley RFC 60

WITH the dawning of a new year it was hoped 2014 would bring better fortunes for Dudley Kingswinford.

Sadly it was not to be for DK who welcomed Otley RFC for their second visit to Heathbrook. Last season's fixture – the first game of last season – was a close affair, won narrowly by Otley in the last few minutes of the game.

Rugby

The game began well for DK as they pressed into the opposition's 22.

Having won an early penalty which was kicked close to Otley's line, the old nemesis which hampered them throughout the last game stuck once more.

The line-out was called long and valuable possession was squandered as the ball was turned over.

Woeful

Courtesy of some woeful tackling, they scored their first try via centre Mackie.

The try was converted by Mark Ireland. Shortly afterwards Ireland's boot again nudged the visitors ahead.

DK continued to win their fair share of possession but also continued to cough up and concede when in promising positions.

Together with this, the Otley forwards gradually asserted themselves.

Rarely this season have our forwards met such a dominant eight, led by their excellent tight head Paul Hill who gave our front row an exhibition of scrummaging all afternoon.

This gradual dominance allowed the Otley backs an armchair ride.

Fly half Ireland had time and space to release his outside backs at will and controlled the game with ease. Gradually despite the DK rear guard Otley imposed themselves.

After 31 minutes, DK's defences, which had begun to leak penalties, allowed the Otley scrum half Stephan Depledge – on his 100th appearance for the club – to score a try, which Ireland converted.

On the half time whistle, Otley were awarded yet another penalty and Ireland converted.

Following the kick-off which was not properly dealt with, the ball was moved wide to allow Paul Hill to run in virtually unopposed and Ireland converted.

Within minutes another unconverted try in the corner by winger Alexander Beaumont gave the visitors a 32 point lead.

Otley scored converted tries by Hill (his second) No.4 Jonathan Stennard and winger Nazim Karim – to put the game out of sight.

As a consolation Pete Knight crashed over wide out for Gareth Bown to convert for DK.

Otley, not to be out done, saw Mark Ireland score his second converted try to finish with the day with two tries; seven conversions and two penalties – 30 points in total.

Keiran Pinches gets the ball away for DKwho faced yet another heavy defeat at the hands of Otley

Phillips is now a Heathen

TALENTED teenager Danny Phillips has joined Cradley Heath for his first full season of National League racing.

Phillips, aged 17, joins the reigning champions on a three-point average but impressed club bosses with his scores when riding as a guest for Mildenhall towards the end of last season.

He was wanted by a host of other clubs but pledged his immediate future to the Heathens and joins Paul Starke, Steve Worrall, Tom Perry and Max Clegg as a confirmed starter.

Heathens are also set to hold talks with Nathan Greaves who is wanted back for a second successive season and another new signing will be confirmed next week.

The Heathens are hosting another season ticket sales night on Thursday, January 23 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Club officials will be there to meet supporters.

The club have also confirmed their 2014 season launch party with all the riders will be on Saturday, March 8, at Cradley Heath Liberal Club and tickets will go on sale soon.

Keeper Hennessy says he is sorry

WAYNE HENNESSEY has apologised for refusing to play at Gillingham as Crystal Palace and West Ham emerged as front-runners to sign the £2m-rated goalkeeper.

Boss Kenny Jackett revealed the Wales No.1 had said sorry on Monday morning after asking not to play against the Gills, and he will now be available to face Preston on Saturday.

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